STAR OF MYSORE

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OUR EVENING DAILY
44th
ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL ISSUE

MYSURU Tuesday 16th February 2021
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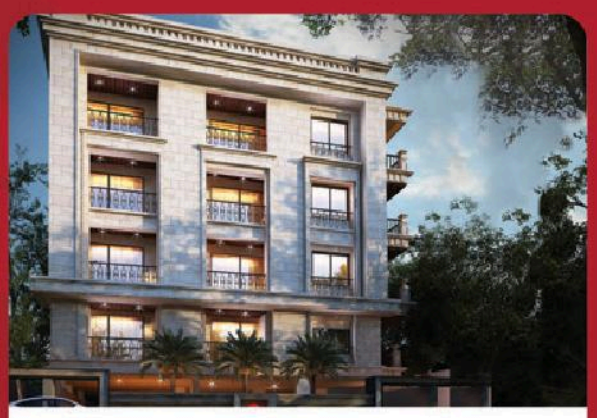

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"We believe comment is free, but facts are sacred."

Editor: M. GOVINDE GOWDA, M.A.

Mysuru, Tuesday 16th February 2021

Thank You

It was this day, nay this very evening, 43 years ago that STAR OF MYSORE was born in this city as an Evening English Newspaper. Happily it continues to be your favourite eveninger.

From this evening, we will be entering 44th year of our publication. And as we do so, we gratefully remember all those who made it possible to reach this milestone and salute them with gratitude and humility.

Bringing out a special issue on our anniversary has been a tradition with us ever since the beginning of this newspaper. We are specially beholden to our readers and advertisers for making this possible this year despite COVID-19 pandemic.

We have been following all along an independent editorial policy without aligning ourselves with any political party, community, group, ideology or vested interest and this policy will continue. Our first editorial titled *"A Star Is Born"* which is printed alongside, declares this policy more eloquently.

As a newspaper, we strongly believe our survival depends solely on our usefulness to the society and on the service we render to our readers and advertisers. Which is why we take up just causes and important issues in a crusading spirit to protect readers' interest while widening our readership base. And advertisers get VALUE for their money. After all, it is the credibility of STAR OF MYSORE as a brand and its pulling-power that should matter to our advertisers rather than the cost of advertising.

On this occasion, we also remember the truth that change is a constant in any organisation that wishes to grow — not just survive. And we are bracing ourselves for an array of changes from pre-press to printing technology. All this to ensure continuation of your addiction to STAR OF MYSORE — for all the news of *Namma Cheluva Mysuru.* We have experienced contributors who provide expert views on issues current and of common interest. This, in addition to our weekly supplement on subjects of special interest.

Welcome. Sit back, relax, make yourself a nice cuppa and experience your reading pleasure every evening.

And finally a big "Thank You" — to our subscribers, advertisers, contributors, our staff, our agents and paper delivery boys who together have teamed up to make STAR OF MYSORE a success story among evening newspapers in India. A very good evening to You.

EDITOR'S BOTTOMLINE

"I will now briefly outline our objectives for next year — We gotta make more money."

NEWS SPARKLERS

War re-enacting rooster lost and found

Auburn: A rooster that participates in Civil War re-enactments was reunited with his owner after going missing in the parking lot of a Cracker Barrel restaurant in Alabama.

Thomas Ramsey, 18, founder of the Muddy Rabbits Mess military re-enactment group, said he started bringing his pet rooster, Peep, along after learning about soldiers who kept similar pets.

Ramsey said he and his group, including Peep, were on their way back to Mississippi when they stopped at the Cracker Barrel in Cullman. He said that when a friend went out to check on the vehicle after about an hour, he discovered Peep was gone.

Ramsey and his friends and Cullman Animal Control Officer Cooper Harris searched the area for Peep, but in vain. Ramsey posted in multiple Facebook groups about his missing pet and when he was nearly back in Mississippi he learned Peep had returned to the Cracker Barrel parking lot and was safely captured.

A local farmer who had followed the search on Facebook, volunteered to drive Peep to Birmingham, where the chicken and owner were reunited.

HEALTH CAPSULE

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By Dr. Sasirekha - Consultant Interventional Cardiology

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A Star Is Born

In an age where birth of a nation is a minor event, birth of a child is a curse, the birth of a newspaper is bound to be a non-event. More so when its founders and the Editor are from among the common men with no past of any distinction. Which is why there was no ceremonial inauguration of the publication of *Star of Mysore* or any promotional campaign.

It is natural, our readers may want to know what manner of a newspaper this *Star of Mysore* will be. A run-of-the-mill type that flutters and falls gently, like an unwanted old leaf, through the window into your drawing room every evening or the one that will interest you to welcome home and read with pleasure.

Yes, the *Star of Mysore* is conceived and produced to belong to the latter category.

This is a local paper and as such we are more interested in what is happening in our immediate surroundings rather than in the distant Delhi everyday.

Our investigative reporter will sneak into the Municipal Council Hall, go nosing around University campus, walk footloose along the Police beat, amble into the hospitals and slink under the seat of power to publish in cold print all that you always wanted to know but could not. Now a STAR is born to fulfil that need.

We, the publishers, reporters and the Editor are aware of our responsibility to our readers. And it is our hope that we will be able to find a responsive readership in you. We are also aware that in the final analysis, it is your patronage and support (both from the readers and the advertisers) that will sustain us in our noble goals and work-a-day life.

The best cannot come in the beginning. We have many constraints. We are improving now and will improve as days pass by. You will soon find better headline types, brighter layout and excellent printing. We are trying. The Star must shine.

[16.2.1978]

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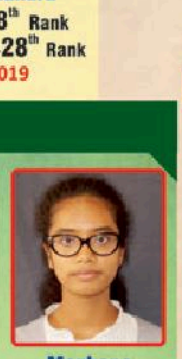

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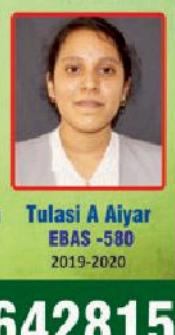

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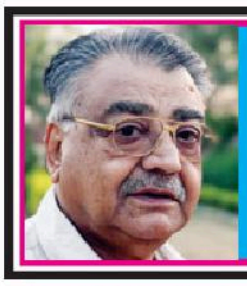


Abracadabra... Abracadabra...

By K.B. Ganapathy

L.K. Advani: Was he cheated by Destiny ?

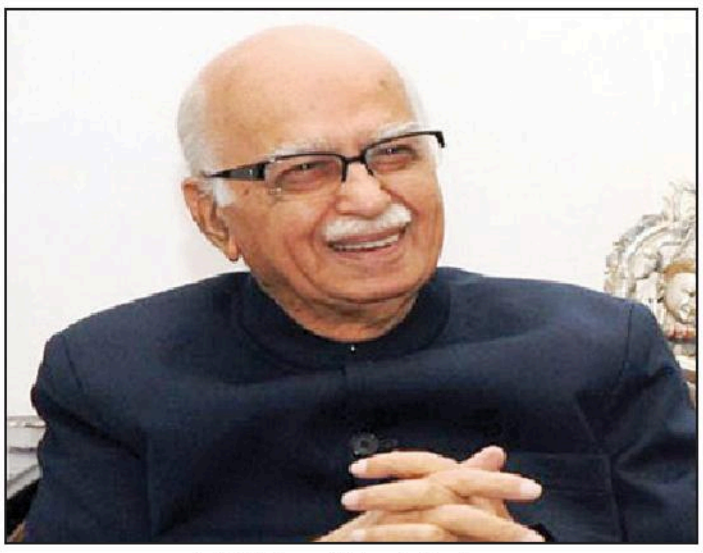
I had read the autobiography of L.K. Advani, the BJP's top honcho ***"My Country My Life",*** a tome running to nearly 1,000 pages in 2008, as soon as it was published. BJP as a political party has had a very chequered growth from its origin as Jana Sangh, then submerged in JP's Janata Party and finally Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). At that time the two leading lights of BJP for the common man were Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the presumptive Prime Ministerial candidate and L.K. Advani. Somehow, despite Vajpayee's charisma, I preferred L.K. Advani to be the Prime Minister, should the occasion arise in the future. Let it be.

For the last one month I have been watching the show on *Netflix* called *"The Crown."* It is about the British Royalty and I was, to some extent, familiar about the happenings, that I saw on *Netflix,* when 25-year-old Queen Elizabeth II was crowned in 1953 and the events that followed. Lord Mountbatten too appears and he was the man who partitioned India. He was a close friend of Jawaharlal Nehru who in turn was a close friend of his wife Edwina. Surprisingly a mention was made of this in the serial by Lord Mountbatten himself!

As I was watching this TV show, I was reminded of what I read in L.K. Advani's book about how his Province Sindh was not divided on the lines of Hindu majority and Muslim majority as was the basis of demarcation but given away in one piece to Pakistan unlike Punjab and Bengal. This is what he had written.

"For Hindus living in those parts of undivided India, which later became Pakistan, Partition was a terrible calamity... The main Provinces affected were Punjab, Bengal and Sindh. But while Bengal and Punjab were divided and so provided a **natural home** to the uprooted Hindus from those two Provinces, Sindh became a part of Pakistan in its entirety.

"There were districts in Sindh contiguous to Rajasthan, like Tharparkar, which had a Hindu majority. **A more assertive leadership** could perhaps have succeeded in bringing these districts to India, in which case India's western boundary could have stretched right upto the sacred Sindhu river. Sadly that did not happen."



Lal Krishna Advani, the loser.

Well, the then Viceroy of India was Lord Mountbatten who was responsible for the Partition under a commission headed by Sir Cyril Radcliffe. Our tall leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Nehru, Vallabhbhai Patel could have gone to the help of Sindh. Sad, they did not.

Be that as it may, Advani spent 20 years in Karachi (Sindh) and like most Sindhis venerated the *Guru Granth Sahib*, the Holy Book of Sikh religion. At the age of 14 he joined RSS and began to sing the RSS prayer for our motherland *'Namaste Sada Vatsale Matrubhoome...'* He also read history books written by the famous historian Jadunath Sarkar on Aurangzeb and Shivaji and got further influenced in his love for the motherland.

After Partition his family moved to India and he continued his service with RSS rising in its rank.

There is no doubt Advani was the main architect of building BJP to what it is today since its new *avatar* when Janata Party fragmented. Imagine BJP being able to get just two Parliamentary seats in 1984 and how it steadily increased its numbers. In 1992, Advani was a hero, literally a *sarathi* to Atal Bihari Vajpayee, a Krishna. Remember his famous *Rath Yathra* from Somanath Temple in Gujarat (which was rebuilt immediately after India got independence. It was destroyed by the Muslim invader Mohammad Ghazni) to Ayodhya. This was one event that had pitchforked Advani to the centrestage of Indian politics. He was first arrested by the then Bihar Chief Minister Lalu Prasad Yadav, who is now in jail for his special *'Desh Bhakti'*. The *Rath Yathra*, however, continued and reached Ayodhya. Unexpectedly, the Babri Masjid was demolished, but advantage BJP despite many incidents of communal confrontation, Bombay serial blasts and worse the attack on the Sabarmati Express in Godhra (Gujarat) and the massacre of Muslims etc, etc. However, BJP reaped very good political harvest. Eventually, Atal Bihari Vajpayee became the Prime Minister (under an alliance known as NDA) and L.K. Advani, Deputy Prime Minister.

Advani in his book on page-622 has written about the Indian Airlines plane coming from Nepal being hijacked in 1999 with more than 160 passengers. Much has been written about it but, looking at what we see in Delhi in the form of various protests like Shaheen Bagh and now the ongoing Kisan protests, I must recall here what Advani had written alluding to the Opposition parties opposed to BJP even at that time. Let me quote:

"Thirdly and the most **unfortunate part of the entire episode**, pressure was being mounted on the Indian Government to 'somehow' save the lives of hostages. As the crisis entered its third day, hysterical demonstrations by the relatives of some of the hostages were staged in front of the Prime Minister's residence, and **I regret to say that these were at least partly instigated by the BJP's political adversaries...**"

All this made me wonder: "It used to be said that the Indian State is a **soft State**, but has Indian society also become a **soft society**?..."

It is widely publicised by the media that Narendra Modi was sent to Gujarat as Chief Minister by the then PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee with the blessings of L.K. Advani. Might be true, but when the Godhra incident happened, the media went about saying that though Atal Bihari Vajpayee wanted to sack Narendra Modi as the Chief Minister of Gujarat, it was L.K. Advani who protected Modi from being sacked. It was a symbiotic kind of relationship, the media declared — Modi helped Advani win election while Advani helped Modi remain as CM.

Well, in retrospect, it can be said, if BJP had gone by Atal Bihari Vajpayee's advice to sack Modi, today we would not have had Narendra Modi as the Prime Minister and dynasty with its coteries would have been ruling the country making it vulnerable to economic failures, military failures and as a soft State in the eyes of the world.

So far so good for L.K. Advani and he was standing at the threshold of Prime Minister's office in 2004. Alas, but destiny seems to have cheated him. How? He took one wrong step in the eyes of RSS, BJP and vast number of BJP supporters.

Advani, when he was the President of the BJP, had been to Pakistan and made, rather thoughtlessly, two statements in an interview to a Pakistani journalist Hamid Mir. One statement — he did not hate Pakistan and he respected Mohammad Ali Jinnah. Advani had also eulogised Mohammad Ali Jinnah as a great "secularist" praising his speech to the Pakistan Constituent Assembly on 11th August 1947 as 'a classic exposition of a secular State.' Jinnah might have delivered the speech but it was an **'appeasement' speech** delivered at a time when millions of Hindus and Sikhs were being driven out of Pakistan or being slaughtered even as millions of Muslims were driven out of India. If Jinnah was a true Secularist he would not have asked for the division of the country on the basis of 'two nation theory'. Advani, a senior BJP leader, failed to see this point.

Advani reacted to the criticism by resigning as the President of the BJP.

Here is an interesting reaction from a then visiting Cabinet Minister, Mani Shankar Aiyar, when asked for his reaction. **He said with a smile of his brand: 'I am not bothered about him, he is politically dead.' Sadly, his words became prophetic.**

Thus ended L.K. Advani's political opportunity to become the Prime Minister for which he was, otherwise, a natural heir. Destiny has indeed cheated him, first by supporting Narendra Modi in Gujarat and second by his visit to Pakistan at a critical time when BJP was in power at the Centre and making statements, uncalled for, about Jinnah.

Well, in retrospect, I have a gut feeling that he was influenced to make this "mistake" by recalling what was hidden in his subconscious mind about Jinnah as stated by Swami Ranganathanandaji of Karachi's Ramakrishna Mission around September 1947 when Advani left for India. Advani writes in his book (Page 48) "Swamiji, in particular, lauded Jinnah's historic speech in the Constituent Assembly of Pakistan on 11th August 1947 and said, 'the true exposition of the meaning of secularism can be found in his speech'." Well, what happened later? Poor Swamiji had to flee from Pakistan.

I am right. L.K. Advani says, "In a subconscious way, my last conversation with Swamiji was to play a decisive contributory role in my own remarks about Jinnah when I went to Pakistan in May-June 2005."

Well, is it good to have such a person as Prime Minister of our country, which for many years suffered weak leadership, making India a 'soft State'? Destiny seems to have saved India !

Jai Hind

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STAR OF MYSORE

OUR EVENING DAILY

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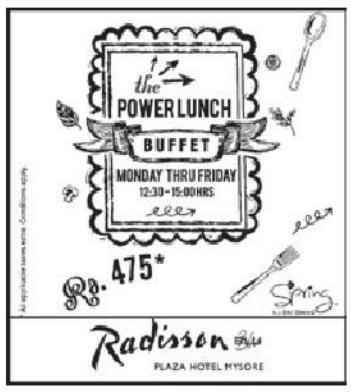

BEML staff stage dharna against disinvestment

The protest will continue till Feb. 20 from 2.40 pm to 3.15 pm daily

Mysuru, Feb. 16 (RK&SSV)- Hundreds of employees of Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML) staged a dharna in front of the main gate of the company yesterday afternoon protesting against Union Government's decision to sell a stake in the key PSU to the private sector.

The protest was held from 2.40 pm to 3.15 pm. The protesting employees raised slogans against disinvestment and urged the Union Government to revoke its decision since the company has been making profit. The protest will be held at the same time every day till Feb. 20.

In a press release here, BEML Employees Association General Secretary M.D. Rajashekaramurthy, said that as many as 13,000 employees were working in all nine units of Karnataka and Kerala.

The company has been supplying materials in key areas of mining, construction, defence, aerospace, rail and metro. Selling the stake of this company to private sector was dangerous to the national security. The total assets of the company was about Rs. 50,000 crore and that included large tracts of land in Bengaluru, Mysuru, Kolar Gold Fields and Palakkad.

"We will intensify our stir if the Union Government fails to drop its idea of disinvestment of the profit-making company," the protesting employees warned.

Anniversary Special issue

INSIDE ARTICLES

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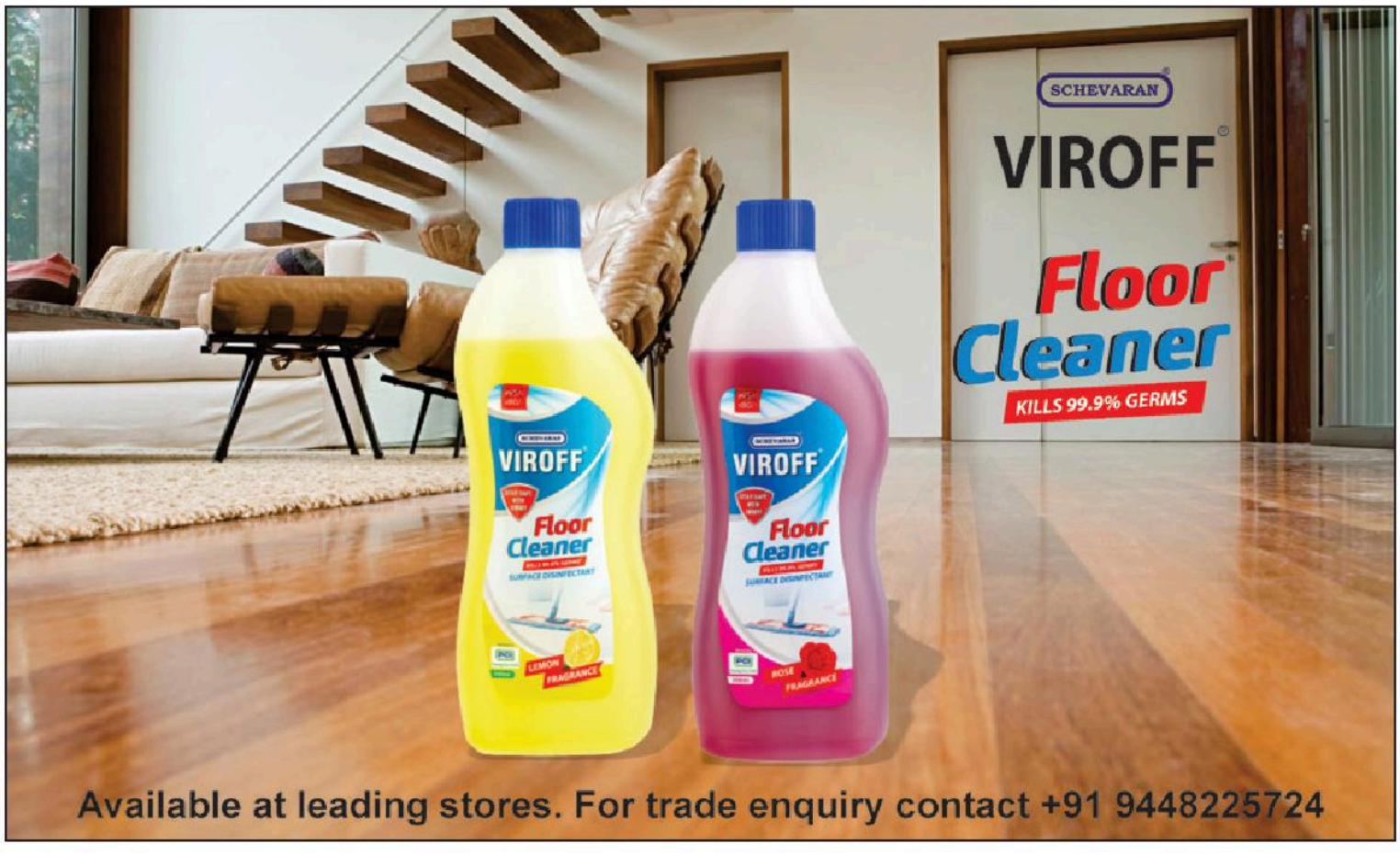
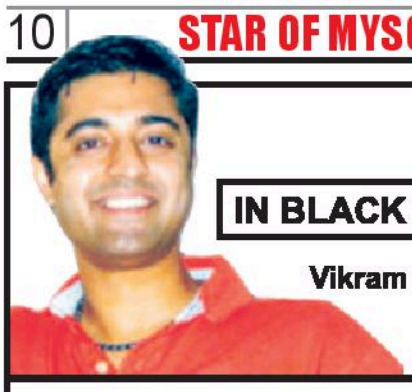
NOTE: Due to pressure on space, some articles could not be published in this issue. —**Ed**





IN BLACK & WHITE

Vikram Muthanna

Love Marriages will make us Indians?

On Feb. 8, Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul while passing judgement on a 'love marriage case' said, *"Educated younger boys and girls are choosing their life partners, which is a departure from the earlier norms of society where caste and community played a major role. Possibly, this is the way forward, where caste and community tensions will reduce by such inter-marriages."*

The above idea may seem too simplistic a solution considering India's complex social structure. But it is a solution all the same.

Inter-marriages are considered by many as a union that dilutes one's culture. But the truth is it educates you about others' culture and also enriches you. Unless, of course, you are a fanatic who marries just to propagate your religion and force your culture on your spouse while wiping away the culture they grew up with.

Makes one wonder, why convert someone if you love them? It's like saying, I love Cadbury's chocolate and I can eat it anywhere anytime, BUT... if I want to take it home, then I would like to have some sugar sprinkled on it and have it re-named as biscuit. This only means that you don't actually love Cadbury's chocolate, but instead were always looking for Bourbon biscuit. So why not pick Bourbon biscuit to begin with?

Yes, the idea of 'inter-marriage' to achieve Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's ideology of "Indian first and Indian last" does sound simplistic, pedestrian and unachievable, almost impossible even. More so, considering that even today, majority of marriages among educated rich and middle class Indians are arranged. Interestingly, inter-marriages are higher among the poor!

The Apex Court made another observation. It said, *"The younger generation that chooses to marry beyond the norms of caste and community was facing threats from elders."* This is too general a statement and is unfair to many elders and parents who know that their child has a choice and remain in an advisory role.

Not all elders are villains in the Indian love story. A caution from an elder or disapproval of one's choice by an older relative should not always be misconstrued as some form of 'patriarchal power play.' It could just be genuine concern which could help a youngster make the right choice. That is why today arranged marriages have taken new *avatars* such as "semi-arranged marriages" or "love-cum-arranged marriages."

In fact, earlier parents would feel proud to say their child had an arranged marriage and even had the audacity to not only look down upon, but sympathise with parents whose kids had a love marriage! I have heard a woman say "my condolences" to her friend whose daughter had a love marriage.

Earlier even young couples were very proud to claim that theirs was an arranged marriage. But today, among the young, well-educated and well-travelled middle class couples, one senses a slight sense of embarrassment when they say "we had an arranged marriage." So instead they say "it was love-cum-arranged." No one wants to be that couple who, though well-educated, well-read and well-travelled still needed their daddy and mummy to find a partner.

Marriage for love is a recent phenomenon even in western nations, we're just taking a little longer as we have very complex social structures. Now a combination of education, financial independence and technology is giving "love marriage" a boost.

Earlier, finding a mate was primarily based not only on faith and caste but also geography. In the good-old-days one usually found a mate in the neighbouring village, then with public transport and media, you could find a mate in another city or State. In the mid-1990s, internet made an entry and soon youngsters entered chat rooms to find a mate, usually within one's own 'community-chat rooms', but now the world is your Playboy Mansion or Playgirl Villa.

Today you could be sitting on a pot with your smart phone swiping profiles on *Tinder, Bumble, OkCupid,* or any one of the numerous dating apps and find a potential life partner. Just imagine you can find your future wife or husband while taking a dump!

Imagine, if someone asked you "How did you both meet?" expecting a romantic story only to hear you say, "Well, I was sitting on the toilet swiping on *Bumble* when our eyes met and I swiped right, that's it." Guess, going forward most answers to "How did you both meet?" will be a boring "online."

Online dating apps are set to change our social fabric because not only does it give the power to choose, but more importantly, it gives one the power to reject.

Earlier, a potential bride or groom had to first see a photo or meet a prospective mate at a common event. If you don't "click" you reject. This happens over and over again until you find the one that "clicks." But if you reject more than a few times, then word starts spreading...

First, the murmurs begin that you are a "fussy" person. Then your parents' parenting skills are questioned as they've raised an indecisive fusspot. Then your relatives will give you disapproving looks at family events as your repeated rejections are not only embarrassing them but also hurting their child's future prospects.

Then the rumour mills begin churning out stories. Most common rumour — you already have a girl-friend or a boy-friend and are on a "rejection-spree" to frustrate your parents into saying "marry whoever you want but just get married." And nowadays they have introduced a "gay" angle ! Finally, as the pressure builds, you run out of courage to reject anymore and choose the very next person you meet.

But thankfully today you can swipe through 100 potential mates in a matter of minutes and reject them all. No fear, No awkwardness, No repercussions, No rumours, No bitterness, No gossip, No embarrassment and No gay theories! It sure is liberating. But as liberating as it may be, it has its shortcomings.

Technology has also rendered us indecisive. What the internet does so efficiently is give us choices, too many choices and dating apps are no better. Social scientists have proven that when we have more options, we are actually less satisfied and sometimes even have a harder time making a choice at all. So one has to know how to wield this power of choice.

As comedian Aziz Ansari noted in his book *Modern Romance: An Investigation* — *"Finding someone today is probably more complicated and stressful than it was for previous generations, but you're also more likely to end up with someone you are really excited about."* The last part is important and more so for women.

No matter how far we've come, women always get the short end of the stick. Be it employment, respect, or love. That is why, it's good news that there are dating apps which give women the choice to choose which man she would like to talk to and get to know. **Technology, education and financial independence essentially will not only end the control of men over women, but it will also make men better men.**

Let's face it, if it was not for arranged marriages half the Indian men would never find a wife. Today, men can behave in a repulsive manner, be dull and badly groomed, yet they will find a wife, because mummy and daddy will find one for them somehow. So men have no incentive to be charming, chivalrous, well-behaved or well-groomed.

Now with dating apps, urban women make the choice. If men want to evoke her interest you better be well-spoken and if it leads to a meeting you better be well-groomed, because if your body odour precedes your presence, you will feel her absence within minutes!

Going forward, urban women will have a choice, elders and brothers may scream that she has brought "dishonour" upon them but technology is going to honour individual choices.

And as more and more women are educated and become financially independent... as more and more women move to cities for work, away from their suffocating patriarchal homes... and as more and more youngsters come to urban India where they have a sense of anonymity, more and more youngsters will meet, fall in love and make a life for themselves. And in doing so, will learn and celebrate each others' culture and in time, albeit a long long time, there will emerge, at least in urban India, Indians who are Indians first and Indians last. We HOPE.

e-mail: vikram@starofmysore.com

VOICE OF THE READER

Letter to Greta
An eye-opener on farmers' agitation

Sir,

I read ***"Letter to Greta"*** by Mohinder Gulati, former Chief Operating Officer, United Nations Sustainable Energy for All (*Star of Mysore* dated Feb.11, 2021).

The content gives a clear picture about the ongoing hidden truth in farmers agitation which is an eye-opener to many readers like me.

Thank you for publishing such an informative article.

— Dr. V. Lakshminarayan
Mysuru
12.2.2021

II

Sir,

The ***"Letter to Greta"*** was a most informative eye-opener on the farmers' protest. I came to know of the many facts that were hitherto unknown to me.

Thank you for publishing such an interesting and useful article.

Kudos to *Star of Mysore* for translating into Kannada and publishing in *Mysuru Mithra* also.

—Saraswathy Ramakrishnan
Saraswathipuram
12.2.2021

JSS STU signs MoU with Global Cyber Security Response Team

Mysuru, Feb. 16- JSS Science and Technology University (JSS STU), Mysuru, recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Global Cyber Security Response Team Private Limited (GCSRT), Bengaluru.

The collaboration will foster a culture of cyber security which promotes safe and appropriate use of cyberspace, financial transaction, e-business transactions and other online and mobile application on devices.

In an era of rapid digital transformation and exponential use of technology that has resulted in the ever-increasing generation of data, the need for cyber security is perennially on the rise for every organisation connected to the Internet. The complexity of cyber attacks is perpetually on the rise, with more and more individuals and organisations falling victims to these attacks.

The purpose of this MoU is to formulate strategies for safeguarding students and all in-house stakeholders of the University from cyber crime.

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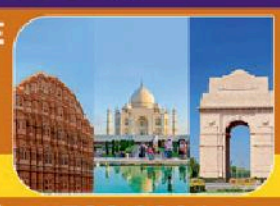

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'My kids are my biggest stress-busters'

It is a dream of many to be a high-ranking bureaucrat but only a few manage to scale the heights by cracking Civil Services exam and later being a successful officer and a role model to thousands of aspirants. There have been innumerable inspiring stories of people becoming the best administrators.

Rohini Sindhuri, Deputy Commissioner of Mysuru district, is one such Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of Karnataka cadre. This gutsy officer has emerged as a beacon of light for women who want to establish themselves in the Civil Services and she has set an example how to ensure public welfare and how not to buckle under tremendous political pressure.

Born on May 30, 1984 in Andhra Pradesh to lawyer-parents, Rohini is the eldest to her other two siblings. She is married to software engineer Sudhir Reddy and has two children.

A 2009 batch Civil Servant, she spent her school days in a hostel and completed her Chemical Engineering degree, before clearing USPC with 43rd rank. *Star of Mysore* caught up with Rohini Sindhuri to know the lighter side of her personality and the unknown facets of her life. *Excerpts...*

By Shadan Muneer

Star of Mysore (SOM): Tell us about your growing up years.

Rohini Sindhuri: I have primarily studied in a boarding school and my childhood was spiritually-oriented and disciplined. Being in a hostel from Class I wasn't very easy and it was not like a regular fun-filled childhood as our boarding school was more like a spiritual school and this environment actually helped in shaping my personality. We used to wake up at 4 am for prayers which was followed by a routine that added a lot of discipline to my life. After schooling, I did my graduation in Chemical Engineering and later took up Civil Services examination in Hyderabad.

SOM: What's your biggest motivating factor for where you are today?

Rohini Sindhuri: The foundation came from my school days. Besides giving importance to spirituality and discipline, we learnt about competitive spirit and various multidimensional aspects. I developed a flair for reading as well. There has been no particular incident or an individual that I can call a driving force. The choice of profession was purely a career call. After completing my engineering, I realised that this is not what I wanted and decided to take up the Civil Services though I was a bit apprehensive about the exams. Fortunately, I cracked it and that opened up many options for me. Constant support from my parents also helped.

SOM: Besides your job, what are your other interests? With your busy schedule do you find time to involve yourself in other activities?

Rohini Sindhuri: I paint during my free time and I am also passionate about sports and enjoy playing badminton and shuttle. Yoga — which I have been practicing from the past 25 years — is part of my daily routine. With the current work schedule it is hard to find free time but whatever little time that I get I try and spend it with my children who are aged four and eight. We watch some interesting shows together and also try our hand at cooking and baking which is fun.

SOM: Can you shed some light on your daily routine?

Rohini Sindhuri: With the number of tasks and travels, it's difficult to follow a particular routine at this level. I am a morning person and my day starts at 6 am with meditation and yoga which helps me even at my work which is then followed by dedicating some time for my children. I head to work and once I return home, my day ends with my children, reading books and put them to bed. This is the only regular routine that I have for now.

SOM: How do you balance your work and your personal life?

Rohini Sindhuri: Both require immense amount of dedication; it's not easy to balance both, especially when you have young children. I sometimes feel guilty for not giving enough time for my children but I have been fortunate enough to have a supportive family. My mother-in-law, who lives with us, has been a huge support in that sense.

SOM: How do you handle stress and pressure?

Rohini Sindhuri: My children are my biggest stress-busters. You tend to forget your pressures when you see your children around. I do listen to music at times and meditation helps to a great extent as it keeps me calm at the work front. The best way to beat the stress is to learn how to manage it.

SOM: What message would you like to give to the youngsters?

Rohini Sindhuri: You need to find what you are passionate about and work towards it and not lose hope when you fail. Failure is not glorified enough in our society. It's not wrong to fail and it is wrong not to try and regret later. Every individual has dreams and it is necessary to follow it up with dedication.

SOM: How do you like your stint in Mysuru?

Rohini Sindhuri: It's been hectic so far. I had some serious tasks on hand when I took over as the DC and COVID-19 had to be controlled and then Dasara happened. Later we had to take care of the post-pandemic situation and now there is the vaccination drive going on. We give our best to come out successfully. Talking about Mysuru per se, it's a nice place.

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SHREE Mahalakshmi SWEETS MYSURU

Mysuru: A Look at its Past...

Veteran Journalists of 50s & 60s

By Gouri Satya, Sr.Journalist

Mysore city and district journalists with Dr. K.M. Panikkar** (front row - centre), **the then Vice-Chancellor of Mysore University, who inaugurated the District Conference.

On this day three years ago (Feb. 16, 2018), I wrote an article titled ***'Saga of Small Newspapers in Mysuru'*** for the Anniversary Issue of *Star of Mysore*. For this Special Issue, I thought I should record some of the veterans with whom I was associated with during the early days of my career in journalism.

These men (there were no women journalists then) were role models for youngsters who entered the field newly. There were no schools or institutions which taught about journalism. To become a good journalist, one had to join a local newspaper, work under a senior journalist and gain knowledge and experience. He had to learn not only reporting but also proof-reading, editing, page layout etc.

The experience he gained and the ability to write good reports helped him to get a job in a bigger newspaper, either in Kannada or English. There was always scope for those who had good writing skill in any of these two languages or both. If he failed to achieve this, he had to give up his hopes of joining a newspaper. Thus, local newspapers served as a training ground for new entrants.

In the late 50s and 60s, Mysuru was a major centre of journalism. A large number of tabloids were being published from here. Perhaps there was no other city where such a large number of small newspapers were being brought out. At one time, they numbered nearly 40 and almost all of them were single-sheet Kannada dailies. Added to them, there were a few weeklies. The Editors of these dailies were prominent personalities, who had made a name. A few of them were politicians of standing in the city.

Besides the Editors of these small newspapers, there were reporters of State dailies and National dailies published from metropolitan cities like Bengaluru, Chennai (then Madras) or Mumbai (then Bombay).

City journalists with Prime Minister Indira Gandhi at the time of her departure from Mysore after overnight stay at the Government House. In the front row are Srinivasan, K. Ramanna, B.S. Ravindranath, H.L. Sreekanta Murthy, Indira Gandhi, Krishna Vattam** (behind Indira Gandhi), **M.T. Jayaram, S. Pattabhi Raman, M.N. Anantha Raju, E. Raghavan and Gouri Satya.

Champion of cow protection

When I entered the field, one of the senior-most among the veterans was **M.S. Krishna Rao,** who published a Kannada tabloid called *'Satyavadi.'* He was a freedom fighter and champion of cow protection. His cow protection call appeared daily in his newspaper, launched in 1917, in the form of an advertisement. Besides the cow protection campaign, it served another purpose — of lessening the task of filling the space there.

The situation in those days was not like today. Mysuru was a small city and more a pensioners' paradise. Its population was around two lakhs. Public engagements and press meets were not many. The sources of news were very few. The Mysore Municipality was only the major source of news items. Consequently, dailies like *'Sadhvi'* mainly covered religious activities like *Harikathe, bhajan* and approaching festivals in brief.

The Editor of *'Sadhvi'*, **Agaram Rangiah,** was a veteran freedom fighter. He had worked in the same publication published earlier as a Weekly in 1899 by its Founder-Editor **M. Venkatakrishnaiah (Thathaiah),** a pioneer of journalism in Mysuru.

Foreign newsprint from Mumbai

Under Agaram Rangiah's stewardship from 1936, *'Sadhvi'* rose to become a popular local Daily commanding a good circulation. There was a time when Rangiah was getting foreign newsprint from a Mumbai agency. Freedom fighters like **Subba Rao Upadhyaya** and **H.V. Subbaramaiah** assisted Agaram Rangiah in desk work. A bachelor, Subbaramaiah had also served *'Pouravani'* and later a few other local dailies. *'Pouravani'* was edited by veteran freedom fighter **H.S. Doreswamy.**

[Continued on Page - 17]

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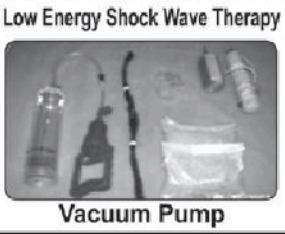
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Journalists

[Continued from Page - 14]

G.R. Josyer was another veteran who published a Weekly by the name *'Rationalist.'* He was a student of Thathaiah. His columns drew the attention of top personalities, including those at the State-level. He was one of the pioneers of the Congress party in Mysuru and a member of the Representative Assembly and other institutions. He was also the Founder-President of the Mysore Journalists' Association in 1937.

A scholar, he brought out books in Sanskrit and English. His publication, *"Vymanika Sastra,"* after tracing a manuscript in his house, drew attention from abroad also. He conducted the birthday celebration of Krishnaraja Wadiyar III every year without fail.

Quits clerk's job for journalism

Another popular Kannada Daily was *'Mysore Patrike,'* the Editor of which was **T. Narayana.** He quit a clerk's job in the Law Court and chose journalism as a career in 1930. His strong Editorials attacking the Government and politicians compelled him to stop the publication for a brief period following an order by the Government.

His small office at Lansdowne Building was always crowded with one or the other leading journalists who visited it regularly. Famous novelist **Ta.Ra. Subba Rao (Tarasu)** and Kannada typewriter inventor **Anantha Subba Rao** worked for *'Mysore Patrike'* besides others. Their stinging articles were most often the talk of the town. After T. Narayana, his son T. Venkataram took over the responsibility of its publication.

First Editor to subscribe to PTI news agency

Before joining *'Mysore Patrike,'* Anantha Subba Rao had begun publication of a Kannada Daily, *'Sevaka.'* He was the first Editor to subscribe to PTI (Press Trust of India) news agency. As there was no teleprinter in those days, the agency sent news items to him by telegram.

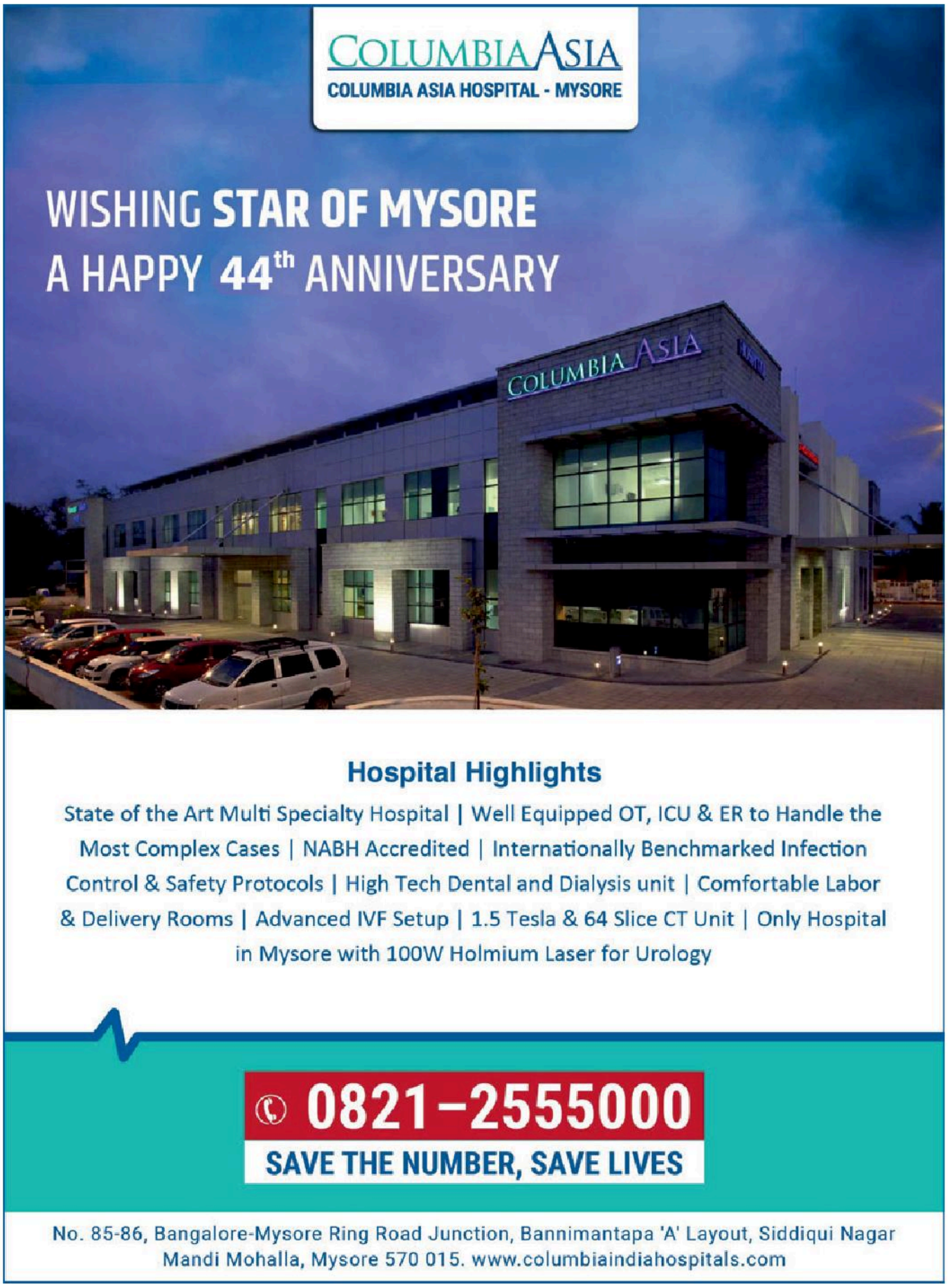
Another journalist who belonged to this genre was **N. Sreenivasa Murthy,** a dynamic reporter of the then popular Daily of Bengaluru, *'Thayinadu.'* His long association with that paper since 1930 had made him popular as *'Thayinadu'* Sreenivasa Murthy. Besides sending reports and photos, he wrote a regular column in *'Thayinadu'* under the caption *'Nagara Sanchari'* (city traveller). It was a popular column and attracted many readers across the State. He was often seen with a box camera at major events, particularly those associated with the Maharaja. The photo he sent to the paper was made into a lead or copper 'block' and then printed along with his report.

As a Senate member, he was associated with the Mysore University for over a quarter of a century. He was not afraid of lashing out at erring officials and politicians openly. Those who were closely associated with him called him *'Bojja'* because of his belly.

Freedom fighter - scribes

After Independence, more local dailies appeared on the scene and there were more journalists. Among them was **A. Ramanna,** who launched the tabloid *'Vijaya'* in 1947. Like his predecessors, he was also a freedom fighter and MLC. He was imprisoned during the 'Emergency' imposed by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

[Continued on Page - 18]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Journalists of 50s & 60s

[Continued from Page - 17]

Another freedom fighter who started a Daily in 1947 was **H.K. Kumaraswamy,** a veteran co-operator. He began to publish *'Aruna,'* a Kannada Daily. His strong Editorials had earned the wrath of the Government. Later, his brother **K. Ramanna** became its Editor.

Pioneer in tourism

Kannada Daily *'Samachar,'* started by **G.L. Swamy**, became the first English Daily of the city when he converted it to that language. Swamy was a pioneer in tourism. He had established *'The Tourist Bureau'* and published tourist literature and picture albums. Leading personalities, including top politicians and Ministers, were often visiting his office.

Almost all these personalities had carved out a place in the city, either in the social or political field apart from journalism. They wore simple Khaddar clothes like a *dhoti* and a *jubba* throughout their life. Agaram Rangiah could be seen always with a Gandhian cap, while Krishna Rao, T. Narayana and Anantha Subba Rao with a black cap and Josyer with the famous laced turban of Mysuru.

Gopalakrishna Rao was another senior reporter in Mysuru. He worked for *'The Hindu'* published in Chennai (then Madras). A simple and unassuming person, he took down speeches delivered by VIPs at major functions in short-hand, sat before a type-writer and produced four or five copies of his report, and handed them over to his colleagues who included **B.K. Gowda** *(Deccan Herald)*, **Kalaiah** *(Prajavani)* and **N.V. Gundappa** *(Indian Express)*.

City Pressmen after the press conference of Maharaja Jayachamaraja Wadiyar at the Summer Palace.

Before Gopalakrishna Rao, **Krishnaswamy** was the reporter of *'The Hindu'* and also had shouldered the task of its distribution in the city. After Gopalakrishna Rao, **R.S. Narayan** became *'The Hindu'* Correspondent. He earned a doctorate for his thesis on Mahatma Gandhi from the Mysore University. Subsequently, **K. Srinivasan** (who was popular as 'Cheemu') and his son, **Bharath Kumar** became the reporters of *'The Hindu.'*

'Bomber' Kalaiah

Kalaiah was a freedom fighter from Maddur and was famous as 'Bomber' Kalaiah. He courageously planted a bomb in a protest rally against the British when a curfew was in force. Like most of the freedom fighters, he was always seen with a Khadi *dhoti* and a *jubba.*

Gundappa was a 'fire-brand' reporter of the *'Indian Express'* published from Chennai. He was not afraid of taking to task any official or politician, however big they may be, if they were indifferent towards Pressmen. He always stood by their side and safeguarded their interests. He would even walk-out of a Press Meet or refuse to attend it, if he found the Press was taken casually. A chain smoker, he too wore a *dhoti* and *jubba*. He remained a bachelor staying in a room in the *Modern Hindu Hotel* (now Hotel Hoysala of KSTDC). He met with a tragic death.

[Continued on Page - 34]

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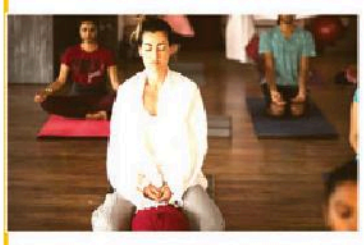
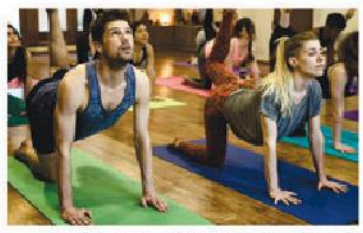

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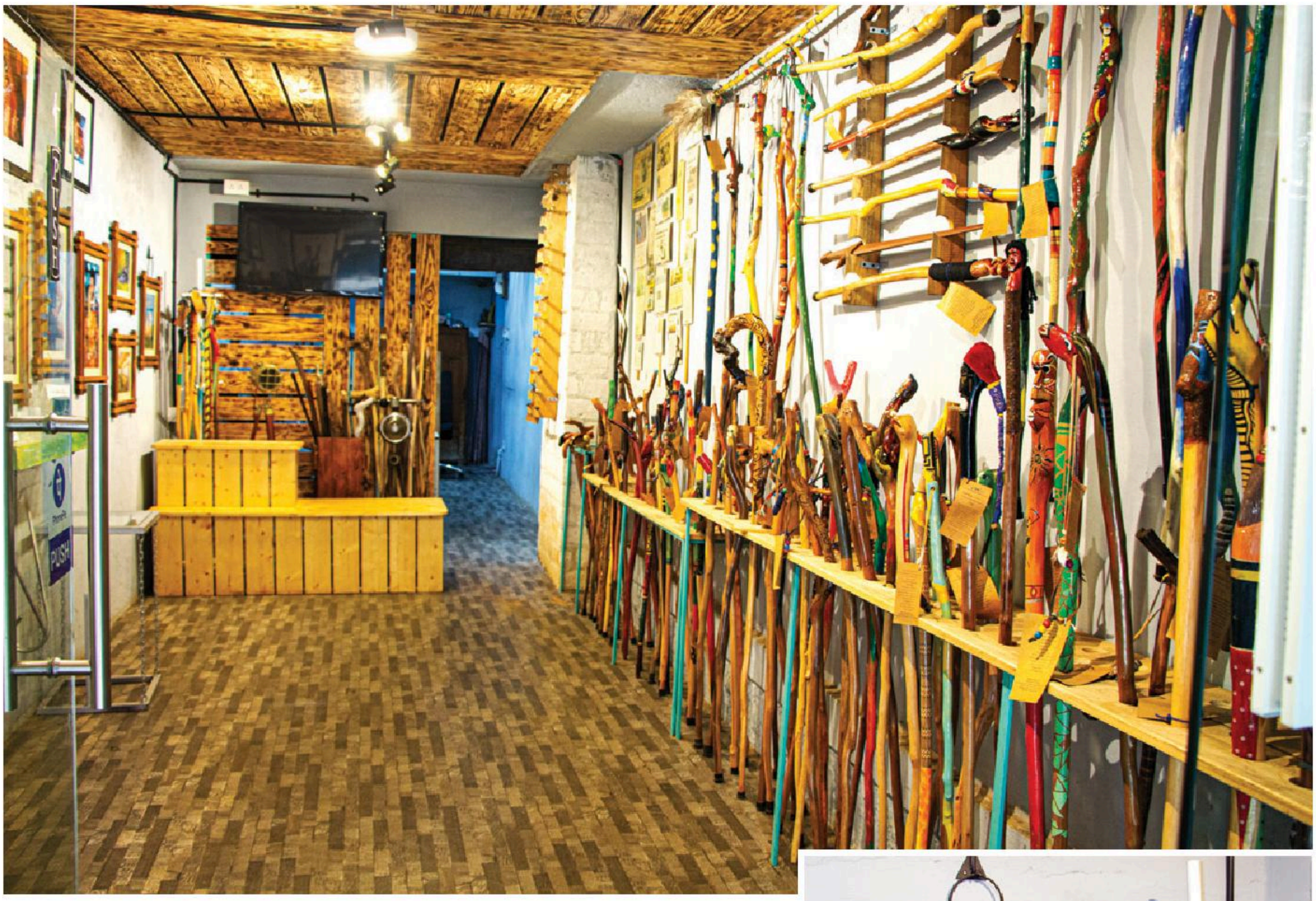

By B.C. Thimmaiah

Have you ever been to a shop dedicated to just walking sticks? Yes, you read it right — walking sticks. In all shapes and sizes, in cane, dead hard-wood, sticks with carved animals, with dog faces, thumb sticks, deep river walking sticks, country walking sticks, home decor sticks, decorative sticks, fashion sticks, bell sticks, hook sticks, gadget sticks, city walking sticks, catapult sticks, lawn light sticks, bug sticks, rattan vine sticks, antique sticks, muscle loader sticks, whip sticks, spirit face sticks, garden sticks, broom sticks, professional walking sticks, shirt hanger sticks, key chains, wind chimes... the list goes on.

While some handle heads are brightly painted, some are shaped as horse hooves, shoes and the various inmates of an animal farm. Walk into **'Bheemstyx'** in Indiranagar Seventh Main, Bengaluru and be prepared to be boggled by its collections. 'Bheemstyx' offers a range of natural sticks that are ideal for walkers, walking stick collectors, and hikers and even can be used as home decor.

Meet **Kullodanda Kuttappa Bheemaiah** aka K.K. Bheemaiah from Kaloor village near Madapura in Kodagu district, who has created a brand 'Bheemstyx'. After dabbling with various professions including event management in Mysuru and Bengaluru, Bheemaiah has forayed into the business of walking sticks — he breathes life into dead wood to create unique works of art.

Born to a family of coffee planters, Bheemaiah has innate knowledge about native trees, the sturdiness of wood and how they can be shaped into trendy walking sticks. He does not cut any tree but spends most of his time in Kodagu visiting estates scouting for fallen trees and branches.

"I had a penchant to collect souvenirs and a friend got me a beautiful rattan vine stick in the year 2000. I first thought how I could further ornament the stick and began smoothening, seasoning, and painting it. Ultimately, the walking stick looked like a piece of art. That was when the idea of creating trendy walking sticks germinated," Bheemaiah told *Star of Mysore*.

BUSINESS ACUMEN

He did not stop there and pursued the idea and expanded his collection and began shaping them into different designs. His aim was to combine utility and art and his sticks. "My friends initially laughed at the idea and there were many who belittled my work. No one saw the business potential and only I saw. We have brands for everything these days but there was no brand for walking sticks and now we have 'Bheemstyx' and 'Bheemstyx' means strong sticks," he says with a smile.

[Continued on Page - 36]

Kullodanda Kuttappa Bheemaiah

Book release and felicitation ceremony

Mysuru, Feb. 16- Spandana Samskritika Parishat, in association with Manava Bandhutva Vedike, Samudaya Sabalikarana Samsthe and Apoorva Prakashana, has organised book release and felicitation ceremony at Maneyangala in Kalamandira premises on Hunsur Road in city on Feb. 21 at 10.30 am

Former President of Karnataka Sahitya Akademi writer Dr. Aravind Malagatti will release the book 'Gandhiya Gadiparu' penned by Hadavanahalli Veerannagowda.

Former Speaker Krishna will felicitate 'Corona Warrior' poet Anarkali Saleem of Srirangapatna, rooftop gardener Shantakumari of Tumakuru, theatre artiste T. Nataraju of Turuvekere and 'Corona Warrior' Ln. Vishwanath on this occasion.

Karnataka State Open University (KSOU) Kannada Professor Dr. Kavita Rai will preside. Writer T. Satish Javaregowda will speak about the book. Author Hadavanahalli Veerannagowda and others will be present, according to a press release.

State-level 'Kavigoshti' in city on Feb. 28

Mysuru, Feb. 16- Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad has organised a State-level Kavigoshti on the topic 'Ayodhyeyalli Ramamandira - Hrudayadalli Ramachandira' in city on Feb. 28.

Addressing a press meet in city recently, Parishad General Secretary Raghunandana Bhat stated that the Parishad has already selected ten contestants from each district at the District-level Kavigoshti and over 50 contestants will be participating in this State-level event.

The top three winners and seven consolation prize winners will be selected during the event and all the poems recited during the State-level Meet will be published in a book form.

Senior writer Dr. C.P. Krishnakumar (CPK) will preside over the event.

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Song birds at the 'Park'

Sing like no one is listening, love like you never been hurt, dance like no one is watching and live like it is heaven on earth. — **Mark Twain**

By Sujata Rajpal

Inspired by the famous quote of Mark Twain (also lyrics on the similar sentiment from the music album *Dance* by Mario Frangoulis, a Greek vocalist and theatre actor), the residents of **Sankalp Central Park (SCP)** have formed a group of singers (amateur and bathroom singers included) who sing for the love of singing.

Sujata Rajpal

Once a month this motley crew of about fifty residents of this elite residential society in Yadavagiri get together by the pool side for an hour and sing together uninterrupted, uninhibited and unstoppable.

"The objective of this group is to sing for the love of singing," says **Hema Jairam,** whose initiative is now an effervescent bunch comprising residents from various professions, age groups and cultural ethnicities.

Named ***The SCP Von Trapps*** (from the movie *Sound of Music*), the ***Von Trappers*** meet on a Sunday evening and sing together for an hour from a pre-determined playlist. Many are out-of-tune, some off-pitch but they sing along without a care in the world. No one sits in judgement, no one corrects anyone because no one is listening. There is no audience, there are only singers.

"This music group provides a platform for the residents to enjoy singing and the outcome is not just the feeling of liberation but also bonding and cordial community living," says Hema with her infectious smile on display.

The beginning: In 2016 which was the 50th year of *Sound of Silence* by American music duo Simon & Garfunkel, a bunch of self-proclaimed singers of the residential society decided to pay a tribute to the great singer. Ideas and suggestions poured in to include *Boney M* and the songs from other albums.

A few days later, George Michael, an English singer, passed away so it was obvious to expand the playlist for the tribute session. "There was no plan to start a music group but we were so overwhelmed by the tremendous response to the inaugural session that we decided to make this a regular affair," tells Hema who has had no formal training in singing.

Every singing session is meticulously planned. Once the theme is decided, the playlist is prepared and lyrics shared with all the participants. Someone brings a harmonica, a prop, a keyboard or a guitar and there are always people to shake a leg (as if no one is watching). Music binds people like nothing else and Bollywood music binds stronger than any bond. Sankalp Central Park being a cosmopolitan society, the members prefer to stick to Bollywood songs only.

Even during the pandemic, the group continues to buzz. "It was during COVID lockdown that the group was most active. Because we couldn't meet physically, we shared recordings of songs sung by us on our WhatsApp group which brought in a lot of positivity," beams **Bhanu Shivkumar,** who is a trained Karnatak vocalist and an active member of the music group. So very true, in today's times, there are numerous reasons for people to be divided but such initiatives keep us united and show the good, humanity is capable of.

LEFT TO RIGHT: ***Bhanu Shivkumar, Hema Jairam and Neha Nair.***

Besides communal bonding, unearthing of hidden talents is another offshoot of this monthly musical camaraderie. **Hema Jairam, Bhanu Shivkumar** and **Neha Nair** have gone a step ahead in their musical journey and started a YouTube channel. *Anhad,* which means songs from the soul, was launched last year on *Ram Navami* day with rendition of Ram Bhajans. Since then the singing trio has been regaling the residents regularly with their renditions of Kabir, Sufi and many others.

About twelve to thirteen practice sessions are held but the final recording is only one single session. "There are no retakes," chorus the ebullient threesome in unison.

How many subscribers do you have? I ask."We want to stay unperturbed by the likes and numbers, we have also switched off comments because the purpose is to share for the joy of singing and not a self-promotion exercise."

"Such groups are the best part of community living. I've met many new people whom I wouldn't have met otherwise," says architect **Ramakrishna Rao,** who has been a resident of SCP for the past ten years. Fondly called RK, the busy architect who hasn't missed a single session till date, makes sure to carry the print outs of all the lyrics even though he knows the lyrics by heart.

So next time you are in Sankalp Central Park on a Sunday evening and you hear loud chorus emanating from the club house, gatecrash the singing party sans tea and samosas and give some exercise to your vocal cords even if you are a bathroom singer because no one is listening. Literally. Sing along and enjoy▪

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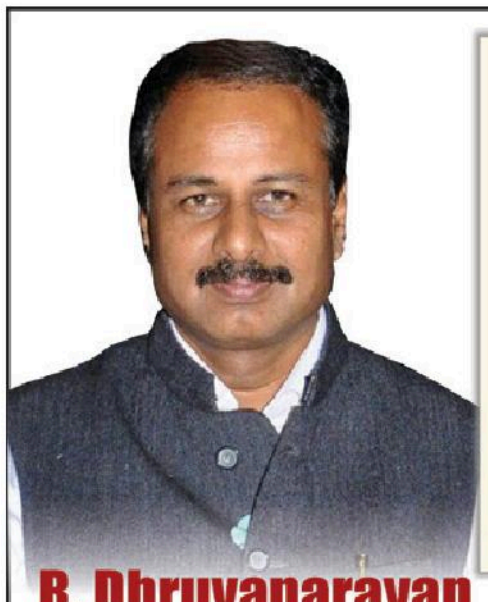

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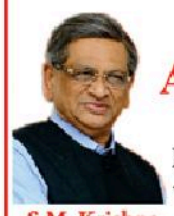

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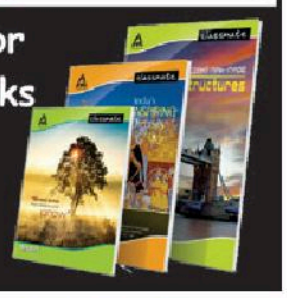

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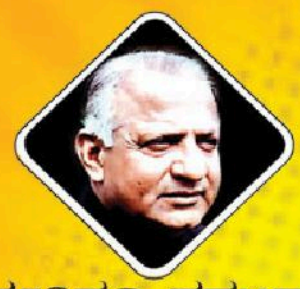

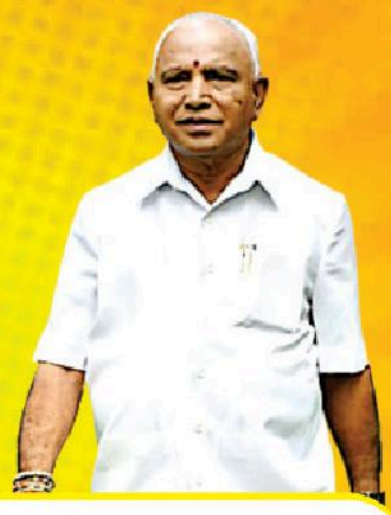

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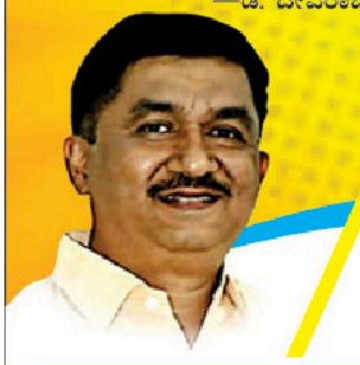

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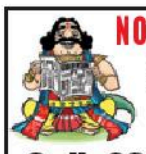

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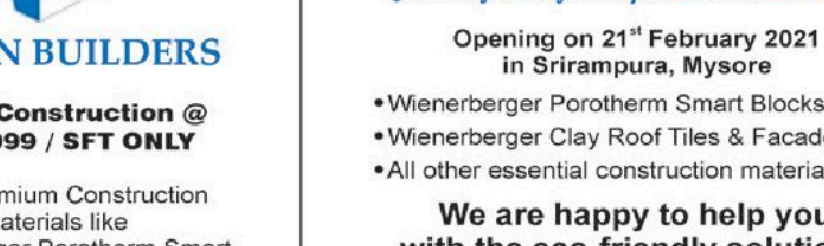

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From Cocktails to Mocktails !

By Nandini Srinivasan

Necessity is the mother of invention! And when hard times hit you, the need to keep going brings out the creativity in you. That's what **Jairam,** who sells sugarcane juice near Crawford Hall in city, is doing now! Having worked as a Captain at *Hotel Southern Star* for years, where he served fancy cocktails, Jairam now serves fruity mocktails.

He had to think of ways to fend for himself when the hotel closed down during the pandemic. With his experience as a chef, food business was his obvious choice. Jairam had earlier worked at a sugarcane stall near the same place from 2003 to 2007, before joining *Hotel Southern Star* and so getting back to the same business was the easiest thing to do.

However, with so many sugarcane stalls all over, business didn't take off as expected and that's when Jairam had to think of something innovative and healthy. His experience in handling cocktails helped and his unique concoctions became a hit!

While generally sugarcane juice is mixed with ginger, lime and now even tender coconut, Jairam has a variety of blends. Sugarcane, gooseberry and citron lime *(heralekayi)*; Sugarcane, betel leaf, rose petals; Sugarcane, bittergourd and pudina; Sugarcane, guava and tulasi and many more!

Sapota, wood apple, beetroot, carrot, turmeric — everything mixes with the cane juice! You can also customise your drink if you don't like the 14 different blends he makes! A dash of cinnamon and black salt adds that extra zing to the drink. All this for Rs. 20 a glass.

Ask Jairam how safe is it to drink in his cart and he quickly quips, "Having worked in a reputed restaurant I know how to maintain hygiene and what the customers expect. So you can be assured that the drinks I serve are hygienic !"

With summer just round the corner and your craving for something not just cool but also healthy on the rise, you can head towards Jairam's sugarcane cart! If you are not a juice person, you can try the spicy limbu soda!

A file photo of Jairam with actor 'Power Star' Puneeth Raj Kumar when the former worked at Hotel Southern Star in city. Picture right shows Jairam now crushing sugarcane at his stall in front of Crawford Hall.

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WORD PLAY

COMPLIMENT OR COMPLEMENT

COMPLIMENT means to express praise or admiration.

COMPLEMENT means to add to something in a way that improves it, such as when attractive scarf or necktie *complements* an outfit.

ADVERSE OR AVERSE

ADVERSE means "harmful, unfavourable or inhibiting success," and is applied to situations or conditions. Prolonged drought, for example, has an *adverse* effect on crop yields.

AVERSE means "opposing or having a strong dislike," and usually describes someone's attitude. Persons' shyness makes them averse to reading their own writing aloud. [NOTE: Because the Latin origin of *averse* means "turn from," purists prefer "averse from," but "averse to" is more commonly used.)

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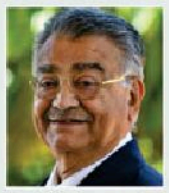
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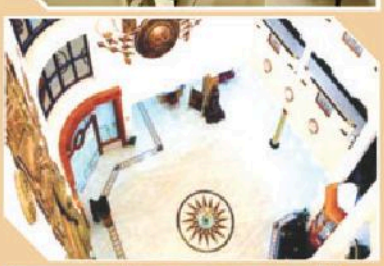

Mega Udyoga Mela on Feb. 19

Mysuru, Feb. 16 (RKB&DM)- A mega Udyoga Mela (Job Fair), organised under the joint aegis of the Department of Industrial Training and Employment, Skill Development Department, Labour Department and the District Administration will be held at Dasara Exhibition Grounds in city on Feb. 19. Many software companies, industries, manufacturing facilities and other companies will be taking part in the job fair, which will be held from 10 am to 4 pm on Feb. 19.

Candidates having educational qualifications ranging from SSLC to Post Graduate degrees and technical qualifications can take part. Men and women job aspirants in the age group of 18 to 35 years can take part. For details, contact Ph: 0821-2489972 or 2484477.

On Friday, MLA Ramdas visited Dasara Exhibition Grounds and inspected the civic amenities and other facilities available there. Later speaking to *SOM*, Ramdas said that many prestigious software companies, industries and other commercial establishments have agreed to take part in the day-long job fair.

Noting that many people lost their jobs due to the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic in March last year, he said that people, both men and women, having qualifications from SSLC to PG and technical degrees can take part in the Udyoga Mela and get the jobs of their choice.

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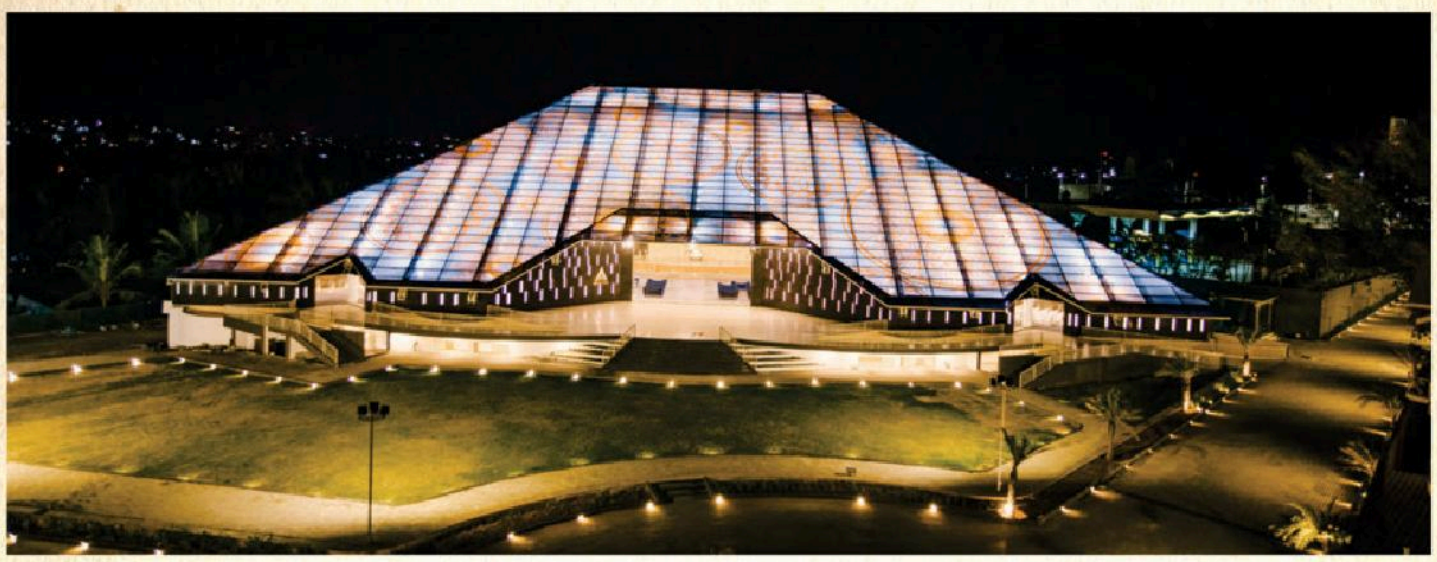

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Veteran Journalists

[Continued from Page - 18]

'PTI' Sastry

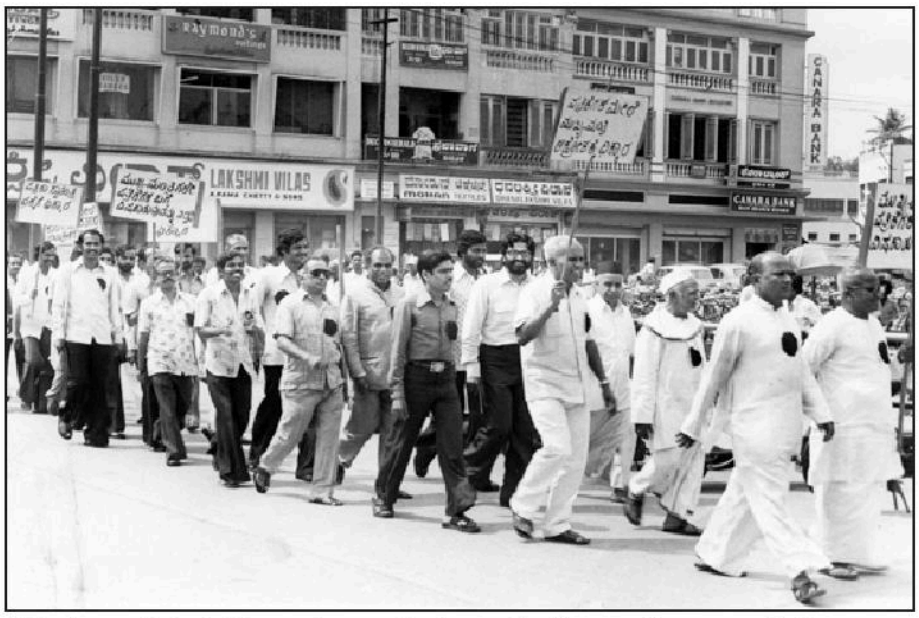
N.N. Sastry was another senior reporter. He began his career as a copywriter in the *'Vrittanta Patrike'* published by the Wesley Press and became its Editor in 1930. He subsequently joined the *'Madras Mail,'* an English Daily from Madras (Chennai). After working in a few other newspapers, he joined the PTI to become its first reporter and came to be identified as 'PTI' Sastry. He had also worked as a sports reporter of the *'Deccan Herald.'* He was the first person to deliver a talk on Dasara Sports in the *Akashvani*, Mysuru.

Hard life after retirement

The pay these reporters were paid was meagre and they found it hard to see both ends meet. Besides working for the dailies they were representing, some of them worked in local newspaper offices, assisting its Editors, who were otherwise busy with other avocations. They got no monetary benefits after they retired and had to lead a hard life. Soft-spoken Gopalakrishna Rao worked in a grocery shop as a bill writer in Bengaluru after retirement. A few like *'Thayinadu'* Srinivasa Murthy, N.V. Gundappa and H.V. Subbaramaiah remained bachelors.

Despite this, they led an honest life and served the newspapers they were representing loyally. They did not hesitate to write boldly against officials who failed to administer properly and even against the Maharaja's administration if an occasion demanded. Even at times of hardship, they did not ask or borrow money from others but took up some part-time job to earn a few more rupees. They worked in the local dailies, as did H.L. Sreekanta Murthy, Gundappa, Subbaramaiah and N.N. Sastry, to add to their income.

A bold and outspoken journalist, **H.L. Sreekanta Murthy,** began his career as a reporter of *'Hindustan Samachar'* in 1952. He later joined the *'Varthaman'* of **M.N. Thimmiah** and also worked for *'Thayinadu'* and subsequently *'Samyukta Karnataka.'* As a reporter for *AIR*, he covered



City journalists taking out a protest march. Among them are K. Ramanna, A. Ramanna, D. Jayadevaraje Urs, Agaram Rangiah, M.T. Jayaram, K.B. Ganapathy, S. Pattabhi Raman, Kumar, Gouri Satya, M. Sathyanarayana Rao, Mahanand and M.R. Shivanna.

news items for its mofussil news bulletin and made it popular. Haa. La. as he called himself, was daring enough to ask embarrassing questions at Press Meets and put a speaker in an awkward place.

'Varthaman' was started by **V.T. Raman,** a theatre owner, in 1950 and **M.N. Thimmiah** took over it after some time. He became a Municipal Councillor and subsequently the Municipal President.

Another prominent politician of the city, **P. Gopalakrishna Setty,** published *'Vishwavani'* Daily. After serving in some positions, he rose to become the Deputy Chairman of the State Legislative Council.

I am happy when I began my early career, I had the association of these veteran journalists, except Thathaiah. They spoke to juniors like me affectionately, guided us with their experience, and advise and shaped us to become good journalists. It is their guidance and advice which helped me step into the shoes of my father G.L. Swamy. Here I must remember the support and encouragement of Gundappa, in particular. He trained me thoroughly while he was working for *'Samachar,'* assisting my father and me. I am sure a few other upcoming journalists also benefited from these elderly personalities.

Krishna Vattam came to Mysuru in 1959 as the Correspondent of the *'Deccan Herald.'* Soon he became popular for his extensive coverage of news and articles. After retirement, he became the Editor of *'Prajanudi'* published by the city's leading politician, Vasu, an ex-MLA.

S. Pattabhi Raman, a champion of Gandhian ideals, worked for *Deccan Herald's* sister Daily, *'Prajavani.'* He was associated with organisations related to Gandhiji. He edited *'Navadhwani'* Daily.

Among the reporters, **H.K. Nagaraja Rao** worked for the *'Times of India'* of Mumbai (then Bombay). He sent brief reports of major events and occurrences. To support his income, he joined the Mangalore Ganesh Beedi Works as a stenographer-cum-typist.

Country's first Sanskrit Daily

Pandit K.N. Varadaraja Iyengar tread a new path. A Sanskrit scholar, he launched the country's first Sanskrit Daily, *'Sudharma'* in 1970 and earned encomiums from all over. He was chiefly responsible for the introduction of Sanskrit news bulletins in the *All India Radio.*

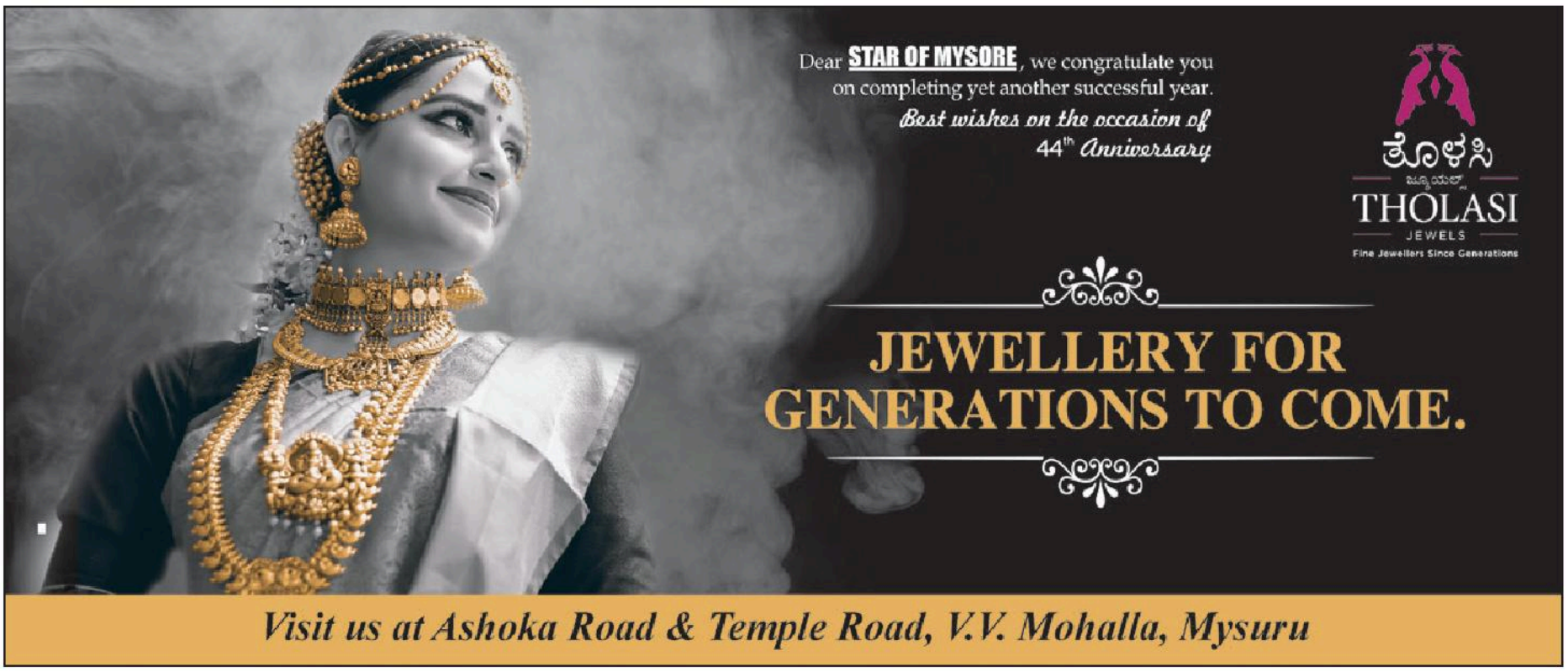
Others who joined the profession during this and the subsequent period included, to name a few, **B.P.R. Vittal** *(Rajya Dharma* - 1967), **Brahmadevaiah** and his son **B.S. Ravindranath** *(Ashoka)*, **H.C. Basavanna** *(Mahanandi* - 1985), **H.N. Narasimha Murthy** *(Independent* - 1962), **Narayana Raju** followed by his son, **M.N. Anantha Raju** *(Vishwadhoota* -1977), **D. Jayadevaraje Urs** followed by *Chandrasekhara Kukkikatte (Sankranthi* - 1977), **Malali Nataraj** *(Mysore Digantha* - 1977) and **K.V. Sreenivasan** *(AIR).* Sreenivasan, a champion of Gandhian ideals, is known among the juniors as 'Brother.'

The write-up would be incomplete if I fail to highlight the contribution of **K.B. Ganapathy (KBG)** and **Rajashekar Koti,** who added a new dimension to the local journalism. Ganapathy launched the popular English Daily *'Star of Mysore'* in 1978 and a sister Daily in Kannada, *'Mysuru Mithra'* (1980). Koti began *'Andolana'* in Kannada in 1977 as a Weekly and later switched it to a morning Daily.

With bigger size, more pages and extensive coverage of both Mysuru and the surrounding towns, and adopting modern technology, they opened up a new front in the field of journalism in the city. They established spacious offices and employed personnel required for editing and publishing the Daily. While actively guiding them, they saw to the growth of their dailies, both in circulation and earnings. The contribution of Ganapathy is significant for he has been continuing to publish two dailies, one in English *(Star of Mysore)* and the other in Kannada *(Mysuru Mithra).*

A few others like D. Jayadevaraje Urs *(Sankranthi* - 1977), H.C. Basavanna (*Mahanandi* - 1985), Malali Nataraj *(Mysore Digantha* - 1997) and Dr. Ajay Kumar (*Prajanudi* - launched in 2000 and later taken over by ex-MLA Vasu), made similar efforts but, except one or two newspapers, the rest folded up after a short period of existence ▪

[Concluded]



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STAR OF MYSORE

44Th ANNIVERSARY

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Breathing LIFE into DEAD wood

[Continued from Page - 22]

FLEA MARKETS GAVE A PUSH

Though the work on walking sticks was started in 2000, the brand 'Bheemstyx' was launched in 2014. When Bheemaiah had a good collection of 50 to 80 sticks, he sold them at flea markets that provided him a good platform. He used to carry stick bundles to almost all flea markets and craft bazaars in South India and along the beach festivals and created a niche and name for himself.

"At the craft bazaars and flea markets, I saw an array of handmade, handcrafted items and I realised that the market is growing for such products in Bengaluru where people loved unique designs, especially if eco-friendly. I was quite well-known in event management in Bengaluru and Mysuru and the name 'Bheemstyx' was a conscious decision to leverage my popularity to kick-start the business," he said.

Bheemaiah personally handpicks each stick from forests and plantations. "I never cut any trees or branches and only collect fallen twigs and dead wood. The landslides of 2018 and 2019 in Kodagu yielded good raw materials for my business. I use natural jungle hardwood to make the sticks and once the sticks are stored, they are cleaned, treated, smoothened, exposed to smoke to make them dry out and later hand-carved," he explained.

ONE-OF-A-KIND PIECES

Each stick has a uniqueness that only nature can design and so every customer receives a one-of-a-kind design. "Nature gives each stick a shape and you cannot copy or create the design. I take natural pieces of sticks and create a functional piece. There is no similarity between one stick and another and each one is unique in shape and paint. The sticks can last up to 200 years," he said.

The entire process of making walking sticks can take either a month or over a year depending on how fresh the stick is. Bheemaiah himself hand-carves sticks into different shapes and sizes and polishes them before being given to artists who bring the sticks to life. He has a huge network of friends who double up as artists.

Artists are compensated taking into consideration their efforts and the detail of their work — the result is exquisite walking sticks with curved handles or decorative sticks with animal heads or abstract art. Despite all painting and polishing, all the sticks uniquely manage to retain their natural feel and this according to Bheemaiah is his USP.

USELESS TO USEFUL

"My father has been a great support and he has taught me to find the right kind of wood and passed on the knowledge of hardwood trees which grow in rainforests of Western Ghats. When I decided to make a business out of sticks, I had decided that my sticks should not only be aesthetically appealing but also be put to practical use — they are for stability in each step, protection or simply as a fashion accessory," he said.

The price of walking sticks at 'Bheemstyx' ranges between Rs. 500 and Rs. 15,000. "I am giving something old, destroyed and useless wood a new lease of life and new meaning and people must appreciate the value and real efforts that go behind breathing life into dead wood. No one values a thing that is fallen down. But if the same piece is turned into art, they are well-received," he added ■

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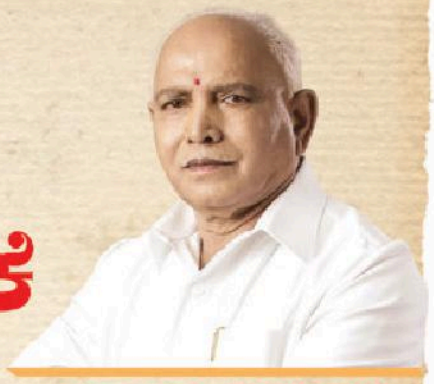

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ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿ **ಶ್ರೀ ಬಿ.ಎಸ್. ಯಡಿಯೂರಪ್ಪ**ರವರ ಸಮರ್ಥ ನೇತೃತ್ವದಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಕಂದಾಯ ಸಚಿವರಾದ **ಶ್ರೀ ಆರ್. ಅಶೋಕರವರ** ಸಮಯೋಚಿತ ಮಾರ್ಗದರ್ಶನದಲ್ಲಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕಂದಾಯ ಇಲಾಖೆಯು ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಹಿರಿಯ ನಾಗರಿಕರು, ವಿಧವೆಯರು, ಅಂಗವಿಕಲರು ಹಾಗೂ ಇನ್ನಿತರೆ ಅಸಹಾಯಕ ಜನಸಮುದಾಯದ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ವಿವಿಧ ಪಿಂಚಣಿ ಯೋಜನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಜಾರಿಗೆ ತಂದು ಯಶಸ್ವಿಯಾಗಿ ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನಗೊಳಿಸಿದೆ.

ಕಂದಾಯ ಇಲಾಖೆಯು ದಿನಾಂಕ : 27-01-2021ರಂದು ಆಯೋಜಿಸಿದ್ದ "ಮನೆಬಾಗಿಲಿಗೇ ಮಾಸಾಶನ", ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಸ್ವಯಂಪ್ರೇರಿತ ಪಿಂಚಣಿ ಅಭಿಯಾನಕ್ಕೆ ಚಾಲನೆ ಮತ್ತು "ನವೋದಯ ಆ್ಯಪ್ ಮತ್ತು ತಂತ್ರಾಂಶ" ಲೋಕಾರ್ಪಣೆ ಸಮಾರಂಭದಲ್ಲಿ ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳಾದ **ಶ್ರೀ ಬಿ.ಎಸ್. ಯಡಿಯೂರಪ್ಪ** ಅವರು ಮಾನ್ಯ ಕಂದಾಯ ಸಚಿವರಾದ **ಶ್ರೀ ಆರ್. ಅಶೋಕ** ಅವರೊಂದಿಗೆ ಚಾಲನೆ ನೀಡಿ ಲೋಕಾರ್ಪಣೆ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿರುವುದು

ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರದಲ್ಲೇ ಪ್ರಪ್ರಥಮ ಬಾರಿಗೆ ನಾಗರಿಕರ ಆದಾಯ ಮತ್ತು ವಯೋಮಿತಿ ಆಧರಿಸಿ ನಮ್ಮ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಸ್ವಯಂಪ್ರೇರಿತವಾಗಿ ಅರ್ಹ ಫಲಾನುಭವಿಗಳನ್ನು **ನವೋದಯ** **"ಆ್ಯಪ್ ಮತ್ತು ತಂತ್ರಾಂಶ"** ಮೂಲಕ ಗುರುತಿಸಿ ಅವರ ಮನೆಬಾಗಿಲಲ್ಲೇ ಪಿಂಚಣಿ ಮಂಜೂರಾತಿ ಮಾಡುವ ಬೃಹತ್ ಅಭಿಯಾನಕ್ಕೆ ಚಾಲನೆ ನೀಡುವ ಮೂಲಕ ನಾಗರಿಕ ಸೇವೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹೊಸ ಮೈಲಿಗಲ್ಲು ಸ್ಥಾಪಿಸುತ್ತಿದೆ.

- ಆರ್. ಅಶೋಕ, ಕಂದಾಯ ಸಚಿವರು

- ವಿವಿಧ ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಭದ್ರತಾ ಯೋಜನೆಗಳಡಿ ದಾಖಲೆ **68.57 ಲಕ್ಷ** ಅರ್ಹ ಫಲಾನುಭವಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಮಾಸಿಕ ಪಿಂಚಣಿ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯ
- ಫಲಾನುಭವಿಯ ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ ಆದಾಯ ಮಿತಿಯನ್ನು ರೂ. 12,000/- ರಿಂದ **ರೂ. 32,000/- ಕ್ಕೆ** ಏರಿಕೆ.
- 2020-21ನೇ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ವರ್ಷದ ಅಂತ್ಯದೊಳಗೆ ಫಲಾನುಭವಿಯ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್ ಖಾತೆಗೆ **ನೇರ ಹಣ ವರ್ಗಾವಣೆ (DBT)** ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆ ಜಾರಿ
- ಫಲಾನುಭವಿಗಳ ಕುಂದು-ಕೊರತೆ ನಿವಾರಣೆಗೆ ಹೋಬಳಿ ಮಟ್ಟದಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಯಮಿತ **"ಪಿಂಚಣಿ ಅದಾಲತ್"** ಆಯೋಜನೆ.

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ಕುಟುಂಬ ದತ್ತಾಂಶದಿಂದ ನಾಗರಿಕರ ಆದಾಯ ಮತ್ತು ವಯೋಮಿತಿ ಆಧರಿಸಿ ಅರ್ಹ ಫಲಾನುಭವಿಗಳನ್ನು ಗುರುತಿಸುವುದು

"ನವೋದಯ" ಆ್ಯಪ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮನೆಬಾಗಿಲಲ್ಲೇ ಅರ್ಹ ಫಲಾನುಭವಿಗಳ ಭಾವಚಿತ್ರ ಹಾಗೂ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ

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ಎಲ್ಲಾ ವೈಯಕ್ತಿಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಾಮೂಹಿಕ ಚಟುವಟಿಕೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಿ ಸಾಧಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ಪ್ರಗತಿಗಾಗಿ ಪ್ರಯತ್ನಿಸುವುದು – ಇದು ಪ್ರತಿಯೊಬ್ಬ ಭಾರತೀಯನ ಸಂವಿಧಾನಬದ್ಧ ಮೂಲಭೂತ ಕರ್ತವ್ಯ

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The hidden gems in ordinary people

Vegetable vendor Nagaraj says he was in Delhi when ex-PM Indira Gandhi was assassinated

By H.R. Bapu Satyanarayana

For me, talking to my flower seller, vegetable seller, fruit seller, milkman, autorickshaw drivers and maid to know about their family and their attitude towards life is of best human interest. Comparing their lives and attitude with our lifestyle and outlook is fascinating and always a humbling experience.

We, so-called educated, live in a life alienated from the reality and take pride in ourselves as being rational, logical and of a scientific mindset. These people live a simple and contented life with their belief and customs. They have no hang-ups and I always find them cheerful. Not for them the politics and they are content if they have two square meals a day.

Even during COVID-19 pandemic, they go about their work serving the society without complaining. I do not find in their countenance any trace of despondency and neither do they complain.

They go about their work like Karmayogis with whatever they earn which must be quite reduced these days.

It is not as if they do not have problems. But their philosophy is simple — to live for the day and for the moment. They go about cheerfully doing their daily work to make a living.

[Continued on Page - 40]

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Hidden gems

[Continued from Page - 39]

Unlike middle class people who have their own houses and have the luxury of getting up late and enjoy reading a newspaper over a cup of coffee, these people do not have this luxury.

Rain or shine, many of them have to get up as early as 3 or 4 am. If you prod them, you will find many of them are full of talent. Let me give you the story of a vegetable seller.

His name is **Nagaraj** — lean built with thick spectacles. Every day he comes on his bicycle to sell vegetables. I was amazed to know that he is a bundle of talent. He is a polyglot knowing six languages — Kannada, Tamil, Telugu, Tulu, Punjabi and English.

As a young man, he was in Delhi selling vegetables for 20 years and now at 58, he is continuing the same profession in Mysuru.

Married in 1987, he has four daughters of whom two are married and two are employed. He lives in Janathanagar in a rented place.

He is interested in cricket and reels out all the popular names of cricketers. He remembers 1983 cricket match between West Indies and India which India won. Nagaraj says he was in Delhi when former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was killed.

This reminds me of the famous composition of D.V. Gundappa (DVG) and the English translation of its second stanza is reproduced below:

Like a jasmine flower in the forest; opening its buds in silence,

Happy in spreading its fragrance all around; remaining anonymous behind the leaves,

Without pride, self-effacing and experiencing a sense of fulfilment.

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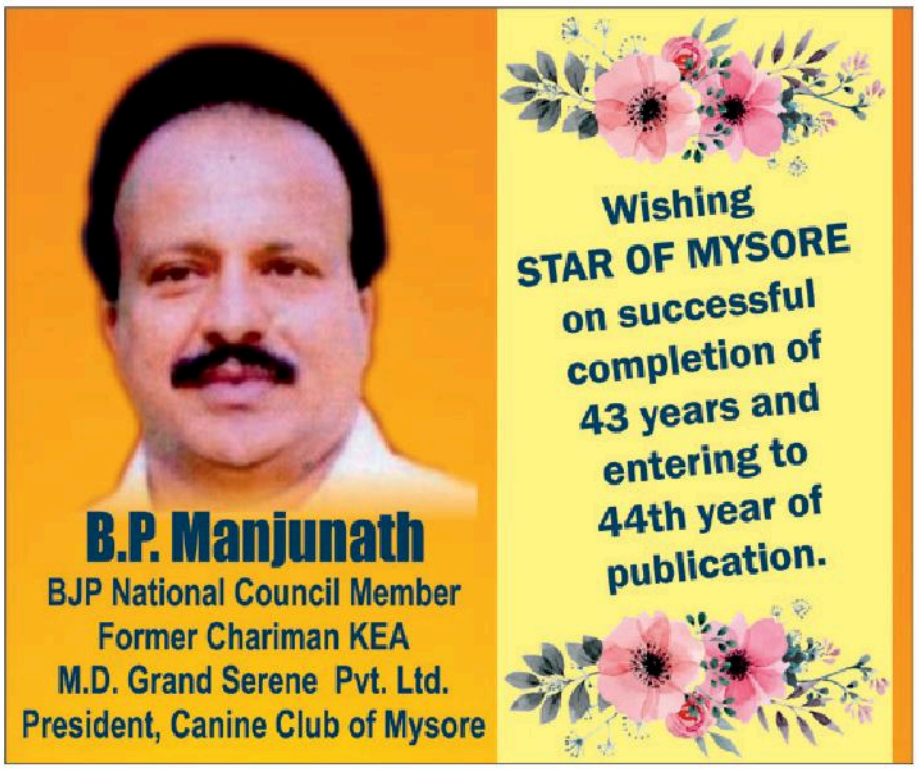

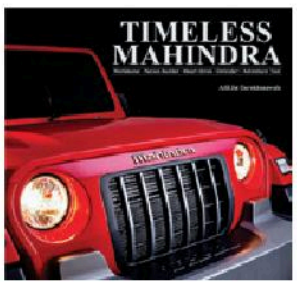

Book launch in city on Feb. 18

Mysuru, Feb. 16- Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar, the titular head of Mysuru royal family, will release the book '*Timeless Mahindra*' authored by Adil Jal Darukhanawala, at a programme to be held at Wind Chimes in Nazarbad here at 6 pm on Feb. 18 under the aegis of The Mysuru Literary Forum Charitable Trust & Mysuru Book Clubs-2015.

A pioneer Automotive Journalist and Editor, Adil Jal Darukhanawala is an award-winning author and historian, who has been chronicling and informing the world about the Indian automotive scenario since 1977.

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* ಅಂಟಿ ಕರೋಸಿವ್ ಪೇಂಟುಂಟ್ಸ್
* ಜಿಂಕ್ ರಿಚ್ ಪ್ರೈಮರ್ ಮತ್ತು ಎಪಾಕ್ಸಿ ಪೇಂಟುಂಟ್ಸ್
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LOOKING BACK...

Girija Madhavan

Home Schooling

My Own Experience

During the Corona lockdown children have been receiving lessons at home online. I recall my own "home schooling" in Mysore seventy-eight years ago; the loneliness I felt then maybe shared now by the children who are kept at home.

I joined the Good Shepherd Convent in Mysore in 1943 when I was five. Dressed in the navy blue school uniform, hair fastened back with clips, face powdered with baby powder, I was driven in my father's green Standard car from our home, past the Railway Station, up Irwin Road and the Arch of Government House, to the Convent. I had just got to know the other children and the nuns, Mother La Salatte and Mother Dominic being my favourites, when my school going days came to an end.

It was the day of Kite Festival. I had a rectangular kite in red and yellow. It was called a "Goranti Pata" ["Pata" is Kite in Kannada] and reputed to make a buzzing noise in full flight. My father and I pasted two eyes cut from black paper on it and attached a long streamer [tail or "bala" in Kannada] to it. Thimmanna, a Railway Peon, glad of a change of duties, offered to help me fly it. A strong wind blew it to the periphery of Yadavagiri then a stretch of furrowed red earth and rocks sloping down to the Railway line. A crematorium [now called "Jodi Thengina Mara" or a Pair of Coconut Trees] lay beyond the tracks. Funerals then were held under the trees. Puffs of smoke belched through the dense foliage; or the baleful red of a burning pyre would glow amid the tree trunks. The kite, damaged beyond repair, snagged on the hoary frangipani tree that still stands outside the house of R.K. Narayan, now a Museum.

I fell sick that day. What seemed an ordinary childhood ailment continued unabated for many days. "The kite's black eyes have cast the evil eye on her," said some. "She was flying her kite near the *Smashana* [burning ghat] and has taken fright," whispered others. A cow, black to its teats, was brought to be fed bowls of crushed jaggery, black sesame and other bovine delicacies to bring me luck. Amulets called "Yantra" from temples and even a "Taweez" [talisman] from a Muslim Saint were offered.

My attending school was stopped and mother nursed me back to health. **"Home schooling" began with mother teaching me English, History and Geography.** I still have the notebook in which she copied, by hand, some poems I had enjoyed reading. I loved Robert Browning's "Pippa Passes" best.

By passing the Lower Secondary exam privately at the age of eleven, I could later attempt the SSLC exam the same way. Without the three language formula of today, only English and a "Second Language" were required. All of us were rejoicing in India's new-won Independence. So Hindi, the national language, was chosen as my mother-tongue.

Sudarshanachar, a private tutor, started me on the Devanagari script when I was nine. A young man, he was a Gandhian, dressed in khadi and wearing a Gandhi cap. He had thick black eyebrows. I realised later they formed an unbroken band right across his brow. He would shave a strip between them to accommodate his red *Naamam,* his Iyengar caste mark. He helped me appear for the exams of the Dakshin Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha. As I progressed, we read the "Ramayana" of Munshi Premchand [Dhanpat Rai Srivastava]. I also enjoyed some comical pieces by other authors. The teacher too would laugh and share the fun with his pupil. Years later, I met him on a Mysore city bus. Though he remembered me with undiminished affection, his memory was vague.

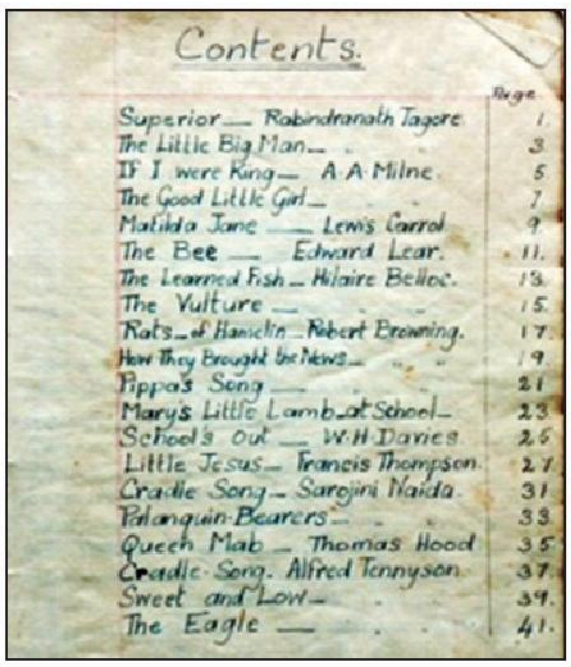
School Head Master, Rangaswamy, agreed to teach me Physics and Chemistry. He was a short-tempered and strict man of whom I was in awe. I had no access to any laboratory so Chemistry was a problem. I read about beakers and retorts and copied diagrams from textbooks. I was probably one of the few students appearing for a Science exam without ever entering a laboratory.

Drawing and painting as a subject for the SSLC was an option. **Artist Sadashivachar began my lessons a year before the exam.** An elderly man, he had a scarred and inflamed face, said to be a result of an infection of "Barber's Itch." After his departure, I would disinfect the brushes, pencils and even erasers. Mother kept a supply of Potassium Permanganate crystals to wash fruit and vegetables, fearing infections. Her "Pinky" or "PP" was a family legend. I used it liberally.

Girija as "Little Bo Peep" in a school play.

On the day of the exam, a bunch of bananas was set up as a still life. We took our own materials, but paper and jugs of water were provided. As I started to paint, the yellow colour spread all over the paper… it was absorbent paper for blotting instead of drawing paper. The right kind of paper was provided later with half-an-hour extra time to compensate.

Hiring three private tutors was considered by some to be an extravagance. In those days, Sudarshanachar and the other teachers requested a modest Rs. 15 a month as tuition fees. The invaluable knowledge and skill these gurus gave to a lonely, home-bound child were beyond price. They enabled me to join the Junior Intermediate Class of Maharani's College as a successful product of home schooling.



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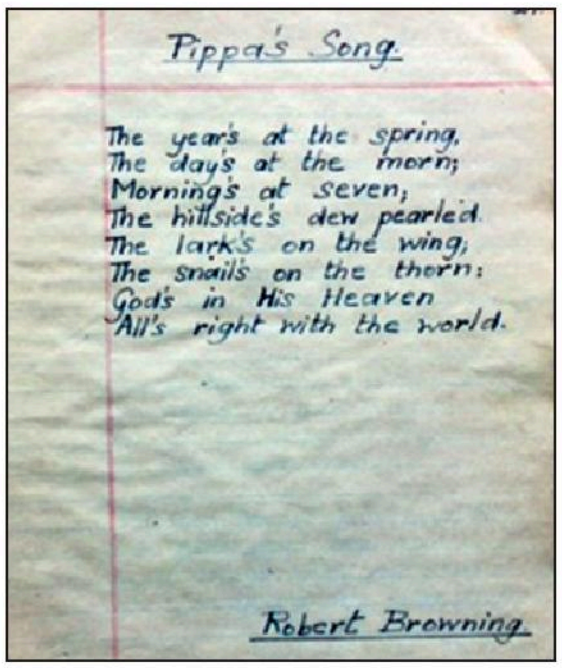

Pippa's Song.

The year's at the spring,
The day's at the morn;
Morning's at seven,
The hillside's dew pearled
The lark's on the wing,
The snail's on the thorn:
God's in His Heaven
All's right with the world.

Robert Browning

Notebook with a selection of poems copied by hand by Girija's mother.

Hindi Teacher Sudarshanachar who always wore khadi. *[This sketch is by Girija from memory]*

Two-in-one singer !

When a lady singer failed to turn up during a musical evening, the helpless organisers had to face the wrath of the audience! That's when the lead male singer offered to step into the lady's shoe! He came on to the stage and began singing a duet and while the audience wondered who the lady singer is, they were stunned when the same male singer so melodiously sang in a female voice too!

That started the two-in-one singer phase of **Krishnamurthy,** who was only a male singer till then. Having started his career as a singer while working in the Administration Department in Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI), Mysuru, Krishnamurthy, an MA LLB, has been a familiar face in most of the music orchestras in city and his ability to sing in a woman's voice has made him a much sought-after singer. Having sung with legends like Dr. Raj Kumar, Dr. Vishnuvardhan, Manjula Gururaj and several other reputed musical troupes, Krishnamurthy, who can sing in all South Indian languages, is a popular singer in Kerala and Hyderabad too.

Retired from service and at 64, Krishnamurthy's zeal for singing hasn't decreased a bit. "Thanks to my discipline and staying away from alcohol, smoking and even tea and coffee, my voice still retains its tenor," he says. —**NS**

WORDS OF GODS

ATLAS

One of the Greek Titans banished by Zeus when they sided with his son against him. Atlas was condemned to carry the world on his shoulders. That scene was popular with early mapmakers, who regularly put it on the covers of their books of maps. The books themselves eventually became known as atlases.

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MUDA Chairman and Senior BJP Leader

My name is Shashi...

Am an Advocate

By M.T. Yogesh Kumar

It was a disturbed childhood. A boy faced ignominy, pain, shame, humiliation due to hormonal changes in his body. But took everything as challenge, studied law and became the city's first transgender advocate.

This is the story of **Shashi alias Shashikumar,** a resident of Jayanagar, Mysuru, who struggled a lot to climb the ladder of success. This person's story is an inspiration for thousands of transgenders who are abused and insulted in public places and also within the confines of homes for no fault of theirs.

However, such attitude towards them is slowly changing with transgenders taking up jobs on par with others. Recently, a transgender was recruited in Vidhana Soudha. For another transgender, Manjamma Jogati, Chairperson, Karnataka Janapada Academy, who is breaking all the barriers and setting a new flag post, the *Padma Shri* comes after decades of social and financial struggle.

Shashi's father was a BSNL employee and mother a home-maker. Shashi has an elder and younger sister and a brother. At the age of 14 years, hormonal changes started in the body and was attracted towards dressing like girls, wearing lipstick and make-up.

His classmates prevented him from going near them and started abusing. Parents also started feeling embarrassed when they came to know that he was transforming into a transgender. Though it shattered his self-confidence, he took it as a challenge and became strong.

Shashi did High School from Siddartha School in Ashokapuram, PUC (PCMB) from Government PU College, Lakshmipuram and completed BA degree (HEP) at Somani College. Even during those days, Shashi faced insult from fellow students. Except two or three students, none would talk to Shashi, who remained aloof since then.

After completion of BA degree, Shashi, who discontinued studies for one-and-a-half years, continued to work as maid in three to four houses to become self-reliant. While working as caretaker of a bed-ridden aged person in Vivekanandanagar, Shashi came in contact with Ayurvedic doctor Dr. J. Rashmirani who helped in taking up higher studies. Subsequently, Dr. Rashmirani appointed Shashi as an Assistant at her Chirant Ayurvedic Clinic and Counselling Centre in Vivekananda Circle. Shashi was then asked to do PG course in Public Administration from Karnataka State Open University (KSOU), Mysuru. In 2018, Shashi was admitted for LLB course in Vidyavardhaka Law College and Dr. Rashmirani paid the yearly fees of Rs. 30,000. While attending the College in the morning, Shashi was helping Dr. Rashmirani in preparing ayurvedic medicines and clinic maintenance. After completing Law degree, Shashi is now practicing under senior advocate, T. Nagaraju at his Office in Agrahara.

"I tolerated insult since my childhood and it continued till degree classes. Many a times, I was sent out by lecturers in front of other students. The attitude of society in general and people in particular towards transgenders must change. Now, I have come to the temple of justice. I have confidence that the fellow advocates will not differentiate between me and others. I am grateful to T. Nagaraju, who took me under his wings despite the fact that I am a transgender. I have attended cases in Assistant Commissioner's (AC) Court and the AC Court Judge Dr. N.C. Venkataraju has appreciated my work. My aim is to become a Judge and I am preparing to write the exam," says advocate Shashi with confidence.

"Disparity not acceptable"

"I met Shashi when I went to my patient's house. Then, I got to know that Shashi is a graduate and wanted to pursue higher studies. Society sees the transgenders differently as they usually don't like to work and prefer to live through other means. I offered a job to Shashi at my Clinic and also financially helped study Law. Shashi is more like a family member than a helper in my Clinic. The hard-work of Shashi must become a story of inspiration to others."

—Dr. J. Rashmirani, Chirant Ayurvedic Clinic & Counselling Centre, Vivekananda Circle

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ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್‌ರವರ ಕಚೇರಿ,
ಪಂ.ರಾ.ಇಂ. ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ನಗರ
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಕಾಇಂ/ಪಂರಾಇಂವಿ/ಕೃರಾನ/ಎ.ಇ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/2020–21 ದಿ: 12.02.2021

ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ರೀತ್ಯಾ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ – ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 07/2020–21 ದಿನಾಂಕ:12.02.2021

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ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ

ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು	ಹುಣಸೂರು	ಪಿರಿಯಾಪಟ್ಟಣ	ಹೆಚ್.ಡಿ.ಕೋಟೆ	ಒಟ್ಟು
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ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ	1	0	1	2
ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ ಮೀಸಲಾತಿ	0	0	0	0
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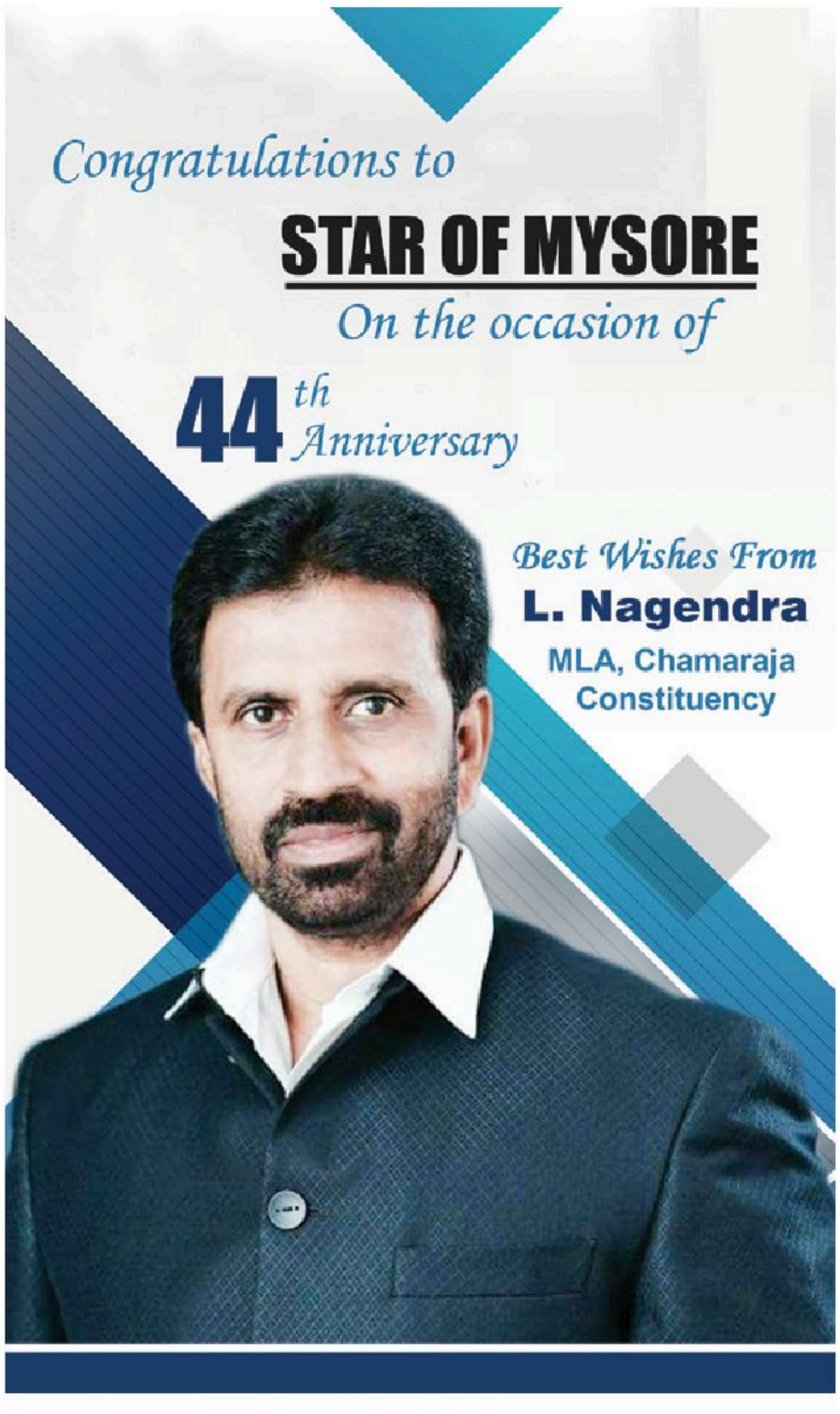

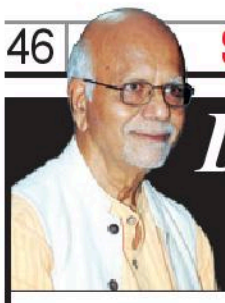

Down The Memory Lane

By K. Vijaya Kumar
Former Jt. Director of Information & Publicity

Memorable days of working with

Yashodhara Dasappa

The firebrand Gandhian who brought women into Satyagraha Movement

Yashodhara Dasappa

The recently held function on ***Yashodharamma Dasappa — Ondu Nenapu*** took my memory back over 60 years to remember this Gandhian and social reformer which Mysore cannot forget.

It was in 1968-69 when I was a graduate without any job, my mother who had contacts with Yashodhara Dasappa (fondly called Yashodharamma) made me to work with her (without any salary) as she needed some assistance in looking after the unit she was running for poor women to produce small axillary parts required for HMT and her Katsura Mahila Vidyalaya at Arasikere.

But what I learnt from her during those period is something which is registered in my memory even today.

Coming from a distinguished family, her father K.H. Ramaiah, who had earned a name for his work for weaker sections and her husband H.C. Dasappa serving as Union Railway Minister, her son Tulasidas Dasappa as MP and later becoming a State Minister in Union Cabinet and one of her brothers K.R. Marideve Gowda serving as Registrar of Co-operative Society, all had imbibed the mind of serving the needy people.

It was my good fortune to have had contacts with Tulasidas till his last days.

I had occasions to accompany her for some of her programmes. She used to carry *Mankutimmana Kagga* of DVG in her bag and would quote from it to learn the life lessons. Of course, she would always impress the people to remember Gandhiji for his work and follow his preachings and not to forget him as true Indians.

In fact, she and H.C. Dasappa were the earliest from our State to come in close contacts with Gandhiji.

Once at a gathering of politicians, she quoted a favourite verse of DVG where he says: *"When seeds from the earth sprouts it won't make any noise; When fruits ripen on the tree it won't play piped music; Sun and Moon who give light to the World won't make even a bit of sound; whereas you man stitch your lips, Mankutimma."*

She impressed not to claim so much for whatever service you are rendering.

Since I was working without any salary, whenever I was still working at lunch or dinner time, she was insisting me to have food at her house saying that I should not be a burden to my parents.

Once when her husband as Union Minister of Railways was on a visit, it was dinner time and noticing I was still working she called me to join the couple for a plantain leaf dinner squatting with them. Introducing me to the Minister she recommended me for a job with him. I was sitting with all shyness with them. When he asked me *'Yenaiah, Dehalige bartheeya,'* I was so perturbed to say anything and kept quiet. He told his wife, 'Look this is what our Mysore boys' courage!'

Thus ended my job aspiration. Even today, while passing through *Yesho Vilas*, their residence in V.V. Mohalla, my thoughts go back to my time spent there with this noble lady and pray for her soul. Whatever is written is so little compared to the work she churned out during her life which was so great.

We should thank her daughter-in-law Sarojamma Tulasidas and other Associations for organising the recent function in city in memory of Yashodhara Dasappa.

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FROM THE ALBUM:
H.C. Dasappa and Yashodhara Dasappa with their sons Ramdas and Tulasidas.

Pedal to Past Bicycle Doctor

By M.B. Pavan Murthy

At a time when modern bicycles equipped with gears & other facilities are becoming popular, for many reasons including users' love for non-motorised transport, one can see very few bicycle repairers, who once upon a time dotted every lane and bylanes of Mysuru.

Non-polluting and environment-friendly cycles were for decades one of the cheapest modes of transport, playing a pivotal role in providing point-to-point connectivity, helping people reach nearby markets, railway station, bus terminals, and allowing them to commute short distances in narrow lanes where cars and autorickshaws cannot easily travel. Even before the emergence of 'Rent a Bike' concept, these cycle repair shops doubled up as places renting out bicycles on hourly basis and they would charge a nominal fee. Even repair and spare parts costs had to be within the reach of a common man.

Thanks to other means of transport, bicycle riding has seen a declining trend and most mechanics have been pushed out of trade. But there are some who have continued the humble profession, rain or shine.

78, YET STRONG

Meet 78-year-old **M. Abdul Rasheed** who has been a cycle mechanic for a major part of his life — 40 years and he continues it with pride. In 1974, he opened 'Baba Budangiri Cycle Shop' on Narayana Shastri Cross Road near Shanthala Theatre. His business thrived as there was a huge demand and Rasheed, though a novice in cycle repairs, learnt the trade quickly and became a skilled repairman.

Rasheed studied SSLC at Sarada Vilas School in 1961 and was assisting his father, who was a contractor, to maintain cash and records. He recalls those days and becomes emotional. "My dad passed away in 1971 and I started car driving to eke out a living. But an accident ruined prospects and I turned to cycle repair profession," he says with a wry smile.

HAPPY CUSTOMERS

He was staying at Nanjumalige earlier and now is a resident of N.R. Mohalla. "In 1974, the rent for my cycle shop was Rs. 15 and as the business grew, I rented out three more shops. I had four to five assistants and there were more than 60 cycles at my shops," he recalls.

"While other shops charged up to Rs. 200 for repairs, I charged just Rs. 20 and I made a name for myself and my customers were happy and I was the most sought-after repairman in and around my shop area," he adds.

Rasheed is the eighth child for his parents who had 20 children. "Only 12 children survived and now I am the only one alive. My father had huge properties and after his death, my siblings quarrelled for property and the issue reached courts. I did not fight for either property or money and I continued to work in my shop," he reveals.

FAMILY ISSUES

Rasheed has three daughters and a son and is leading a contended life with his wife Noorunnisa. Tears welled up his eyes while narrating his daughter's story. "My son has three-year-old son. My third daughter's husband passed away due to heart attack and she came to stay with me. She is a diabetic and I had to get her foot amputated due to a small wound. Now fortunately her son is earning some money."

Speaking about leading a peaceful life, Rasheed says that their family has APL Ration Card and no rations are supplied. "We need BPL Card which will be helpful. COVID-19 hit my family hard and I was out of work for almost a year. Now slowly the work is picking up," he said.

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